



DIAMOND
VOL 19

THE COMPLETE TEENAGE MAGAZINE

COMIC WORLD

In English, Hindi, Bengali, Tamil and Malayalam

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YOUR BEST FRIEND FOR LIFE



TOURISM SPECIAL

Special Features by

Ruskin Bond

Anant Pai

Barry O' Brien

**Comics
Inside**

Heman

Batman

Denis the Menace

Phantom

Archie

Tom & Jerry

Chacha Chaudhary

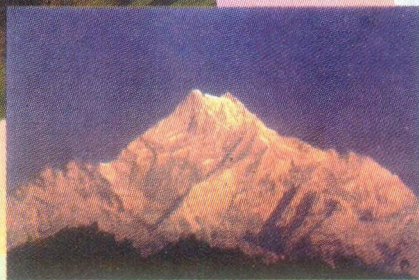
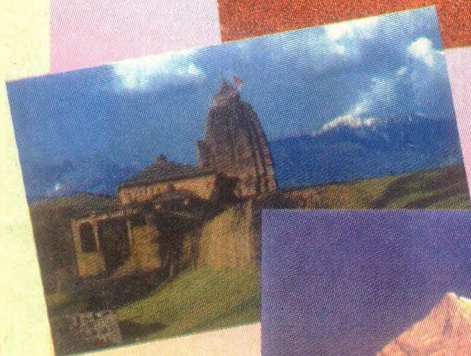
Pinki Billoo Paltu Meeku

Panchatantra and many other



TOURISM SPECIAL

Eco
Tourism
Travel Tips
Solo Travelling...



DIAMOND
Vol. 19

COMIC WORLD



Editorial

Dear Friends,

In ancient times Gurus imparted formal and ultimate education in Gurukuls i.e. resident school. Once at the time of farewell, Guruji addressed to his passing out Shishyas -

"Vats, your education is not complete yet. Now, you go around the country, meet and observe the people and lifestyle. Visit monuments, study nature and feel the life closely. Then only you'll be graduated."

Actually travelling enriches your experiences. It provides an opportunity to interact with people and have fun. It is lifetime reward. So in this 'Tourism Special' issue of Comic World we have tried to provide all you need to know about travelling i.e. different tourist spots, travelling time, modes of transport and duration and places to stay there.

Don't forget to take your camera along with you. Also share your experiences with us.

Happy reading and happy travelling.

Always Yours

Gulshan Rai
(Gulshan Rai)

COMICS INSIDE

Archie * Heman *

Batman * Tom &

Jerry * Dannis the

Menace * Chacha

Chaudhary * Billoo *

Pinki * Paltu * Meeku

* Veer Hanuman *

Vikram Betal

* Panchatantra *

COMIC WORLD

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IN THE NEWS



2000 CARNIVAL

RIO



Women painted with gold and the colors of the Brazilian flag dance atop a float of the Grande Rio Samba school during the Rio 2000 Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on March 5, 2000. This year's Carnival celebrates the 500th anniversary of the discovery of Brazil.

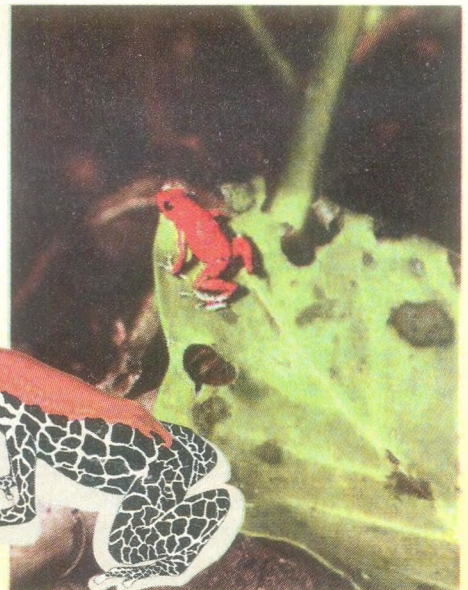
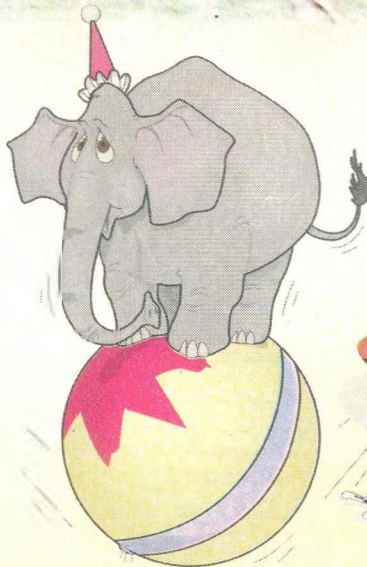


The Deadly Dart Frog

A poison dart frog is protected within the boundaries of Bastimentos National Marine Park in the Bocas Del Toro province of Panama, 550km from Panama City. The poison of the dart frog, found in the rain forests of South and Central America, is considered one of the deadliest in the world. Some of the indigenous tribes of this region use it to poison the dart of their arrows.

Theatrical Spectacle of Elephants

Elephants and their mahouts, who usually roam the streets of Bangkok, perform the traditional method of war, as they were hired to participate in a theatrical spectacle in Ayuthaya Province, 70 kilometers north of Bangkok.





Mine Clearing

Director of the mine clearing program of Mozambique Jackie D'Almeida (in the background) looks on as a member of his team searches for mines near the town of Moamba, north-west of Maputo next to the South African border on March 10, 2000. The rebel UNITA forces have planted these mines in the field and roads while retreating from this area.



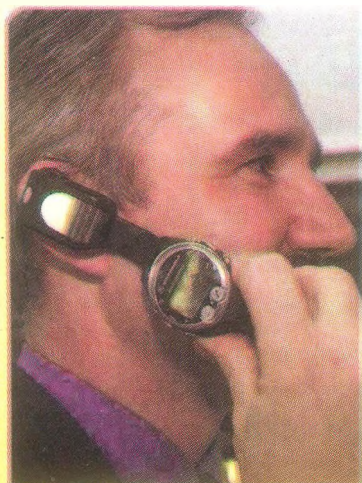
GIANT PANDA IN SAN DIEGO ZOO

Six-month-old Hua Mei, the giant panda cub, at the San Diego Zoo peers out from the branches of a tree at the Giant Panda Research Station, on March 10, 2000. San Diego Zoo is famous for breeding and rearing many endangered and rare species from other parts of the world.



Wristwatch Equipped with Tiny Cellular Phone

An employee of Motorola demonstrates the company's new watch phone at the Cebit fair in Hanover, northern Germany.



The wristwatch is equipped with a tiny cellular phone, and the bracelet can be used as receiver.

The Cebit is the biggest fair for information technology and tele-communications in the world. Some 7,800 exhibitors of 63 countries presented their latest products.



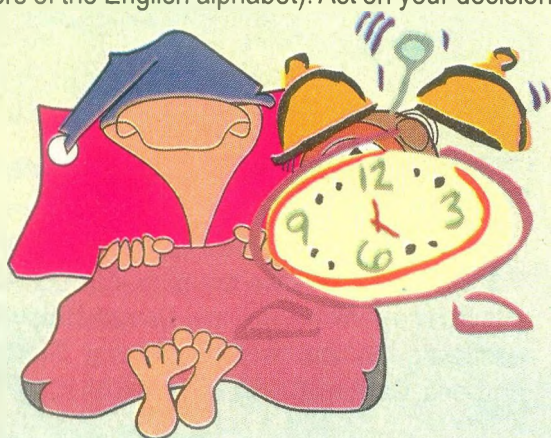
THE MOUNTAIN MAN

Three Feathers, a 50-year-old self-proclaimed "mountain man" who has been living the lifestyle for more than 26 years, with his two donkeys, Trooper Dan and Baby Bell, wandering on the west on Yucca Street in Hesperia, California, USA on March 9, 2000.

Structuring your time helps to develop will-power

Chart your own time-table for the daily activities. Allocate fixed times for getting up, study, exercise and going to bed. Offer prayers at fixed times of the day. Walk two kilometres every morning. Once you have chalked out your time-table, stick to it. True, it is not an easy task. Even getting up at a fixed time may seem very difficult at first. The first day's battle will be won with, great difficulty. You may use an alarm clock, if necessary, for a few days. After a week, you will certainly not need the alarm clock. You will have a built-in alarm within you. The habit you cultivate of getting-up early is far more effective than the alarm sounded by the clock. The clock can only sound the alarm. The built-in alarm, the habit, will force you to get up. You will be able to get up effortlessly. By following a time-table you have yourself charted, you will find yourself in increasingly, greater control of your thoughts and actions.

You may fill one page of a notebook every day with a sentence like, "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." (Incidentally, that sentence uses all the letters of the English alphabet). Act on your decision



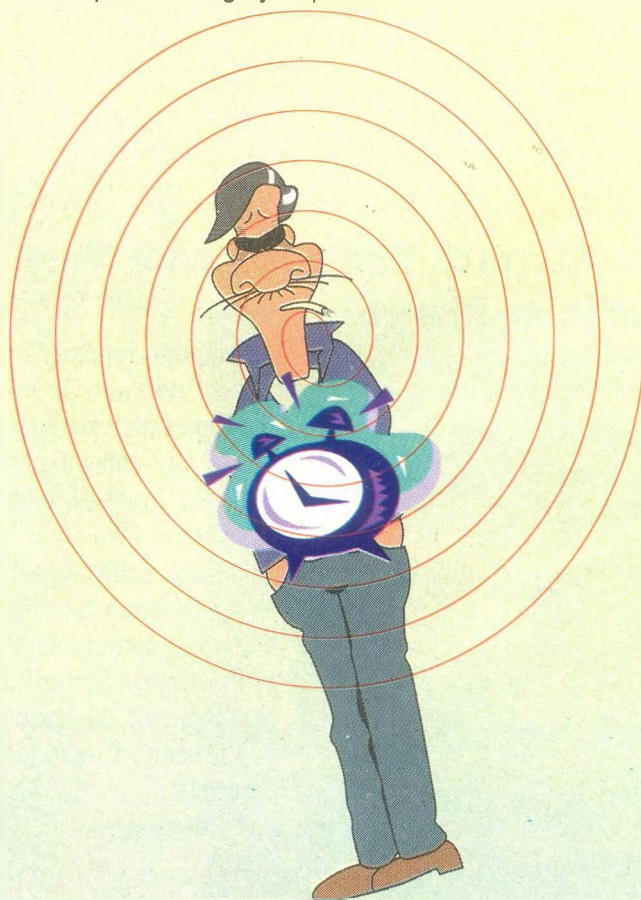
Uncle Pai's way to Success



Anant Pai

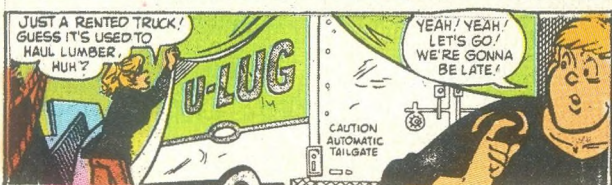
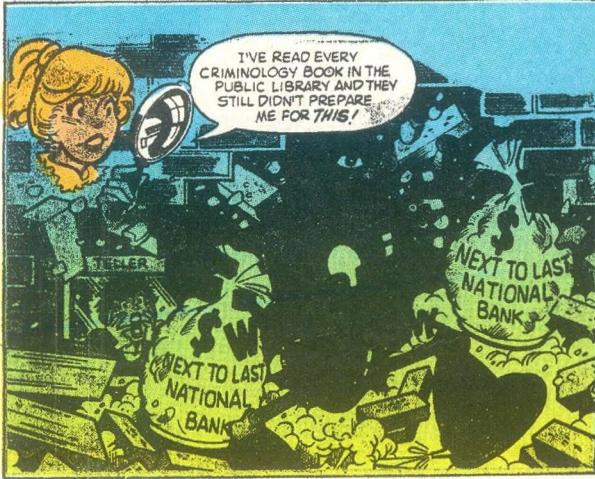
for a month. You will find yourself slowly transformed. Of course; instead of writing that meaningless sentence, you may as well write; "I feel I have a better control on my thoughts and feelings than ever before" or "Every day I am feeling better and stronger."

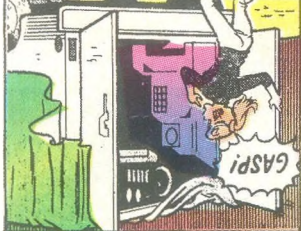
The following small experiment demonstrates the power of habits to you. Take a reel of sewing thread. You can break it with your little finger. Tomorrow, weave another thread into the first thread. Weave one more thread every day. After seven days, you will find it difficult to break the slender "rope" you have prepared. After a month or so, it will be impossible for you to cut the rope even with a knife. This is equally true of habits. Make a habit of getting up early and you will find it difficult not to get up early. Coir fibres are delicate but weave a rope out of them and you can tie up even a mighty elephant.

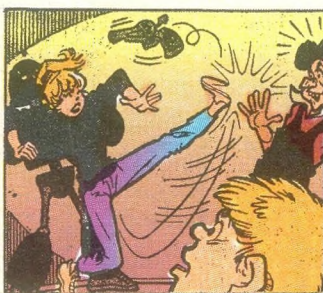




Archie



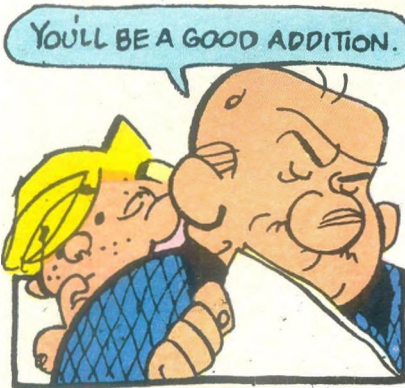
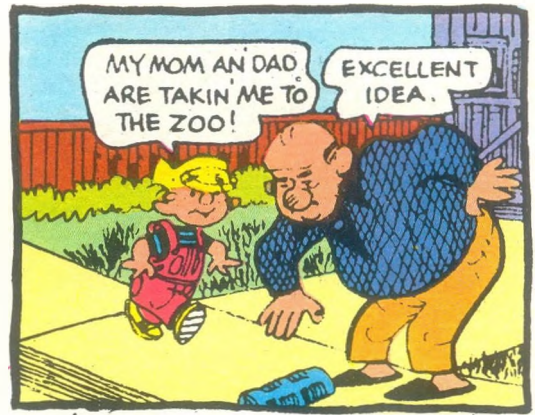




Dennis the Menace

Creatures Of The Wild

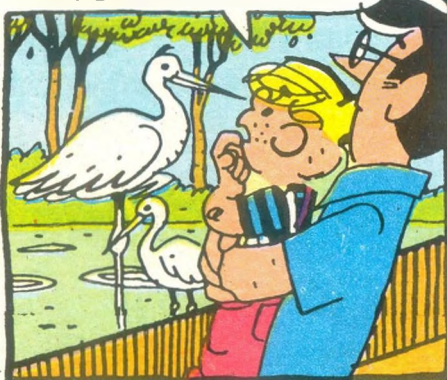
by Hank Ketchum



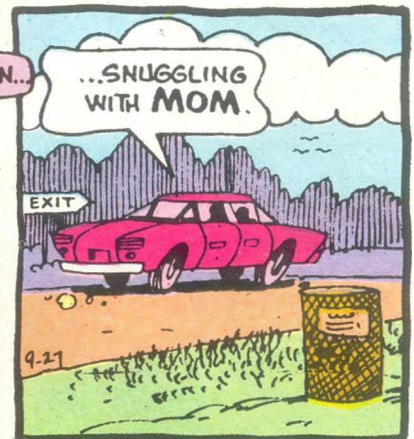
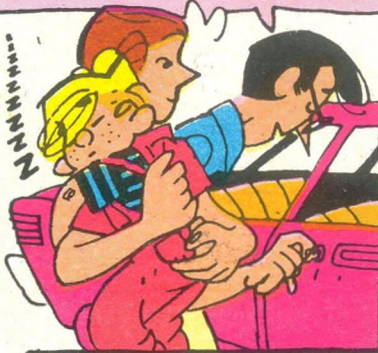
THATS ONE CAT RUFF WOULDN'T WANNA MESS WITH!



IF STORKS BRING BABIES, WHERE DO BABY STORKS COME FROM?



THERE'S SOMETHING ALL TIRED LITTLE CREATURES HAVE IN COMMON...



MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE

WHEN STRIKES... THE FAKER!

FOR WEEKS THE PEOPLE OF ETERNIA HAVE HEARD STORIES ABOUT HE-MAN ATTACKING INNOCENT VILLAGERS AND DOING GREAT EVIL. MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN A NASTY STORY CREATED BY SKELETOR TO MAKE PEOPLE DISTRUST THE MIGHTY MORTAL... BUT IN A SMALL FISHING HAMLET SEEING IS BELIEVING...

AGGH! FLEE, YOU PUNY CREATURES! NOTHING CAN STAND AGAINST THE MIGHT OF HE-MAN! I WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING THAT GETS IN MY WAY... EVERYTHING!

THWACK!

EVEN THEIR ARMY CAN'T STAND AGAINST HE-MAN, I AM UNBEATABLE!

MEANWHILE, ON BOARD THE WAR-SHIP, A SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE SIGHT CAN BE SEEN! PRINCE ADAM, WHO IS SECRETLY HE-MAN, IS BEING ATTACKED BY HE-MAN'S RAIN OF ROCKS!

SO THE REPORTS OF AN ENRAGED HE-MAN IN THIS AREA ARE CORRECT. SINCE YOU ARE THE REAL HE-MAN THIS MUST BE AN IMPOSTOR.

WE CAN WORK OUT WHO HE IS LATER... FIRST OF ALL LET'S GET OUT OF THIS ROCKSTORM!

WHOEVER IT IS, HE CERTAINLY HAS YOUR STRENGTH!

THASH!

WELL NOW THAT WE HAVE FOUND HIM, I INTEND TO FIND OUT WHY HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO GIVE ME SUCH A BAD NAME!

WITH THEIR WAR-SHIP DESTROYED, THE HEROES ARE FORCED TO SWIM TOWARDS THE BEACH...

AS SOON AS I REACH THE BEACH I'LL CHANGE INTO HE-MAN!

YOU TAKE CARE OF THIS IMPOSTOR AND I'LL GO WITH THE CREW TO THE HAMLET AND HELP ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN INJURED.

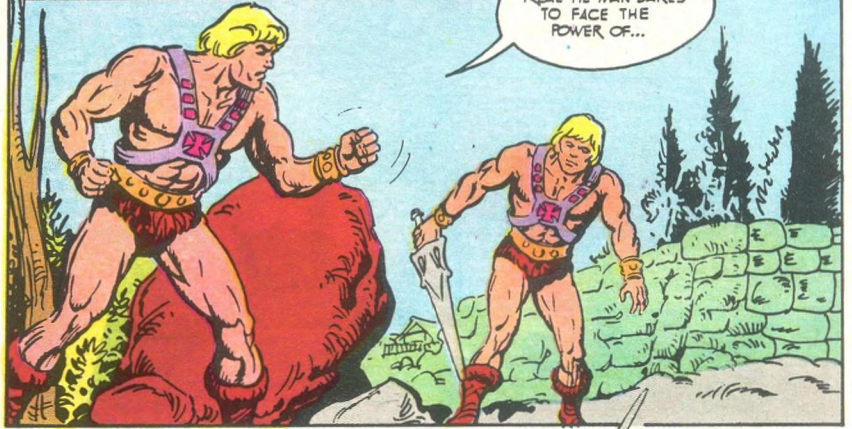
ONCE OUT OF SIGHT, PRINCE ADAM STRIKES HIS MIGHTY SWORD AND SPEAKS HIS SACRED OATH...

BY THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL... I AM THE POWER!



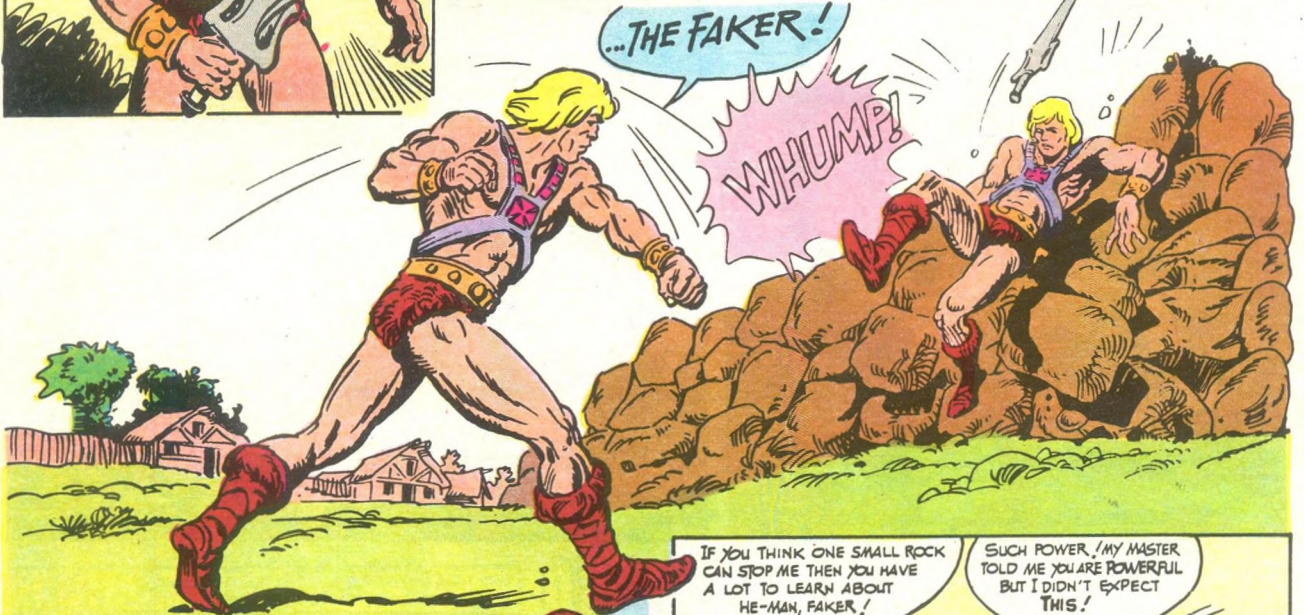
WHEN THE 'REAL' HE-MAN REACHES THE HAMLET...

AT LAST! THE REAL HE-MAN DARES TO FACE THE POWER OF...



...THE FAKER!

WHUMP!



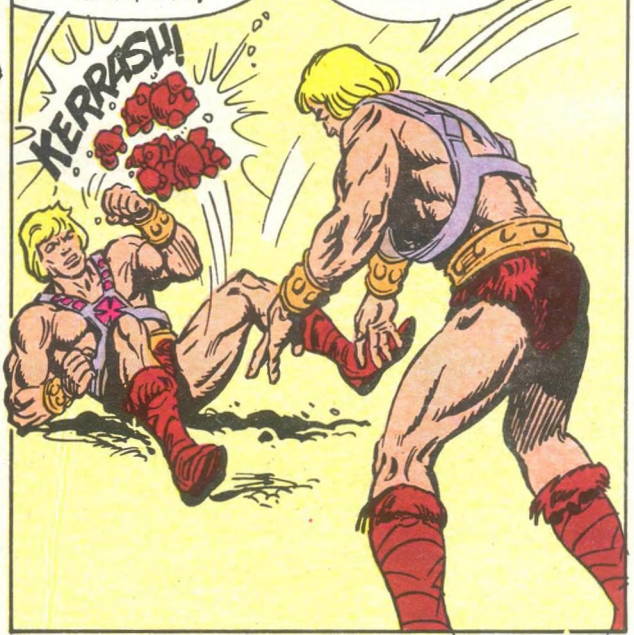
JUDGING BY THE POWER OF THAT PUNCH IT LOOKS LIKE I HAVE QUITE A FIGHT ON MY HANDS!

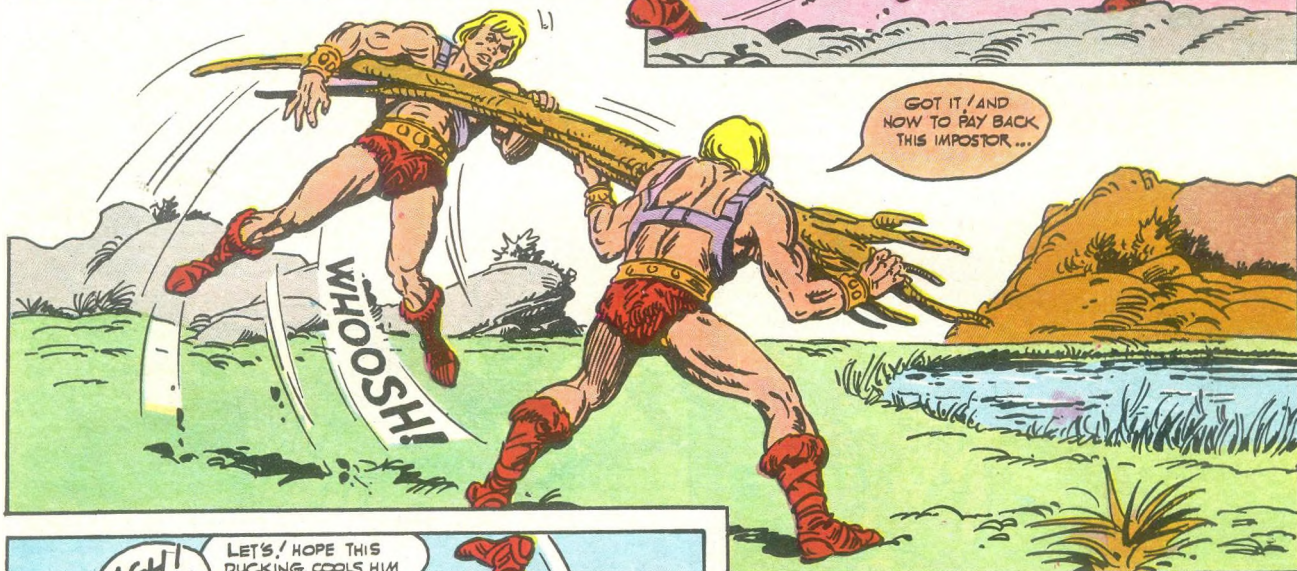
GRRR! THIS FIGHT IS ALMOST TOO EASY! THIS ROCK WILL END OUR BATTLE WITHIN MOMENTS!



IF YOU THINK ONE SMALL ROCK CAN STOP ME THEN YOU HAVE A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT HE-MAN, FAKER!

SUCH POWER! MY MASTER TOLD ME YOU ARE POWERFUL BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS!

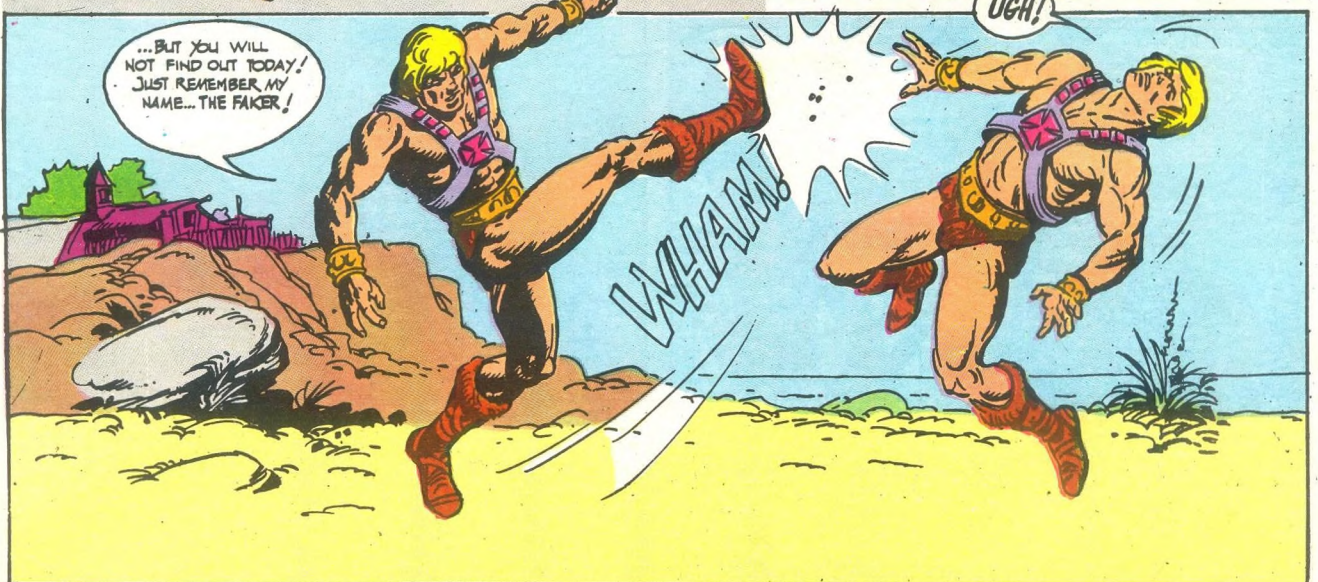
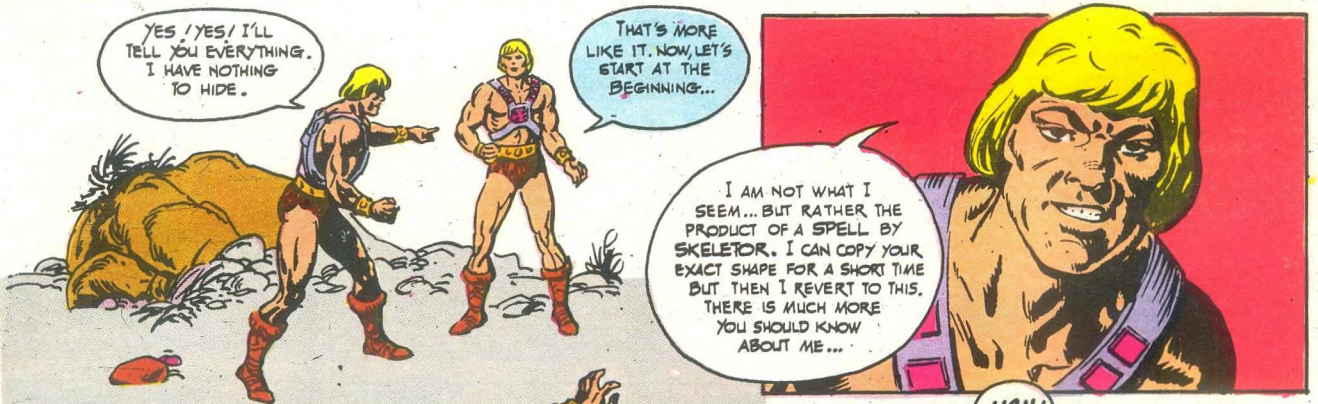
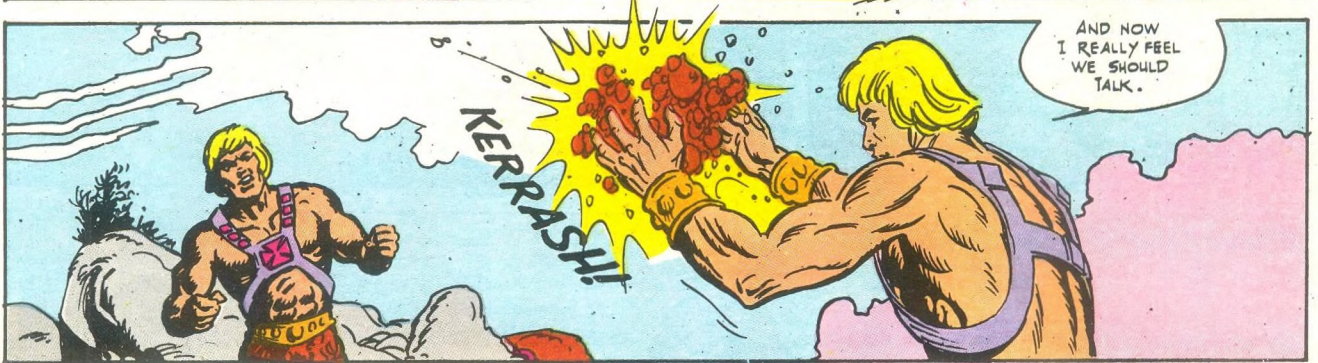
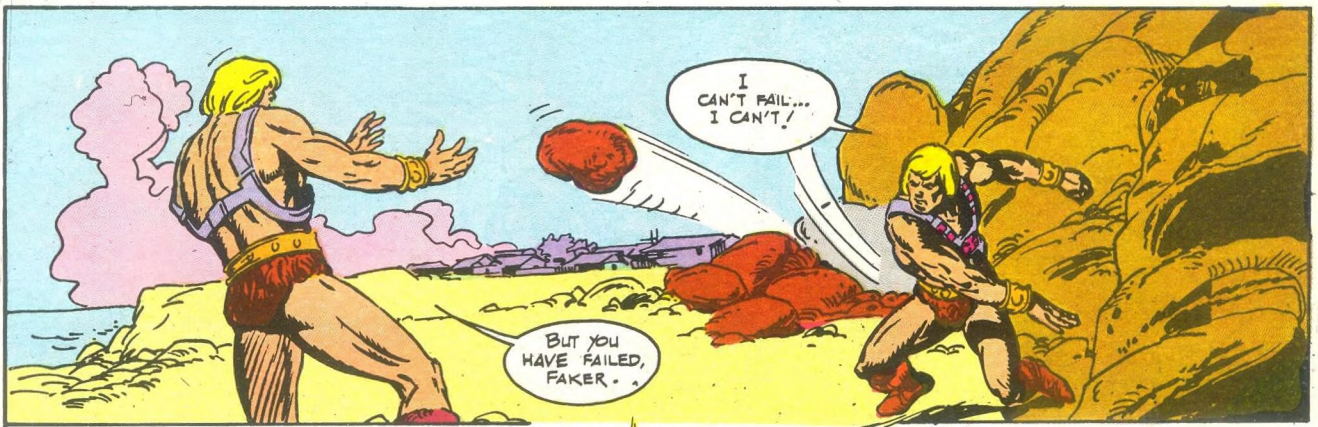


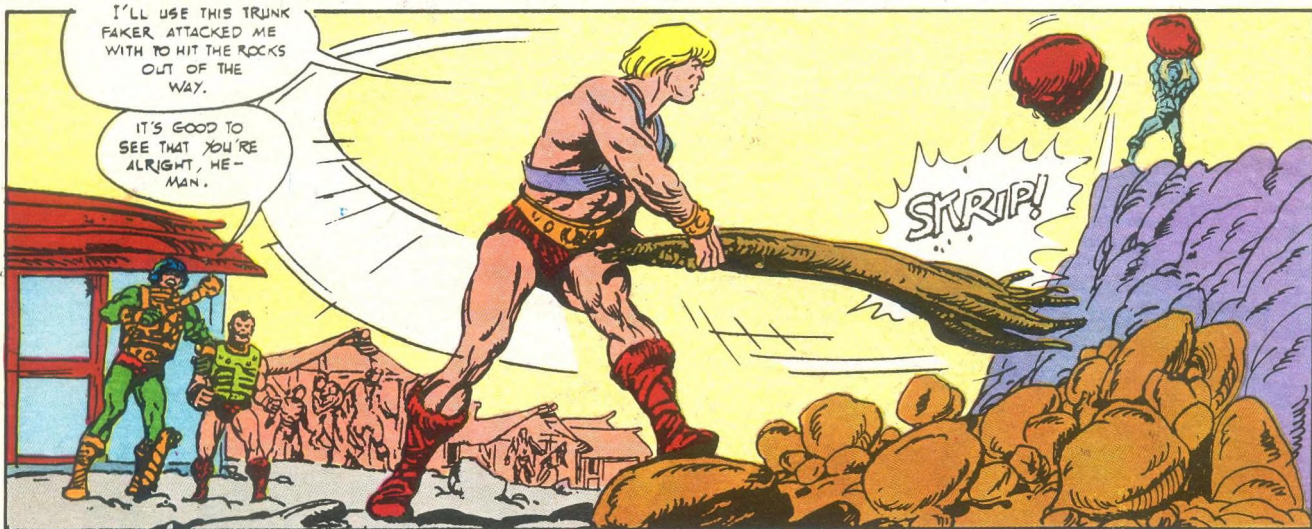
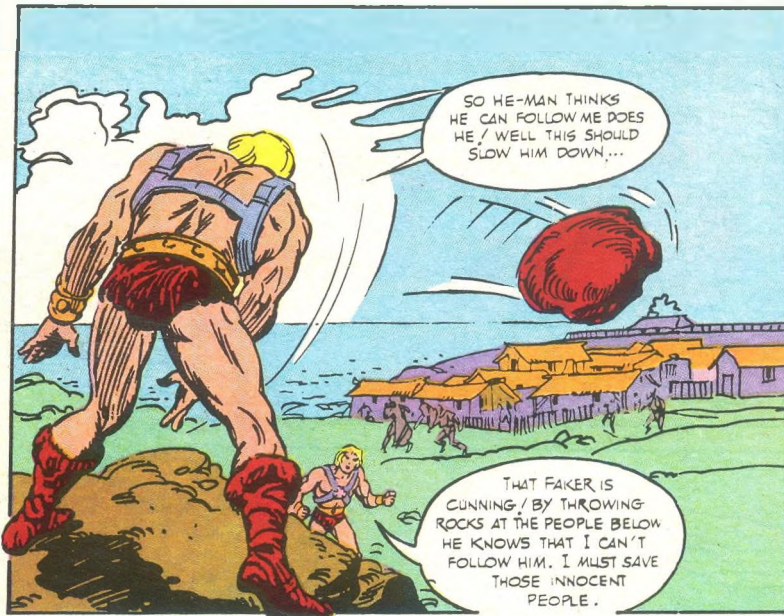


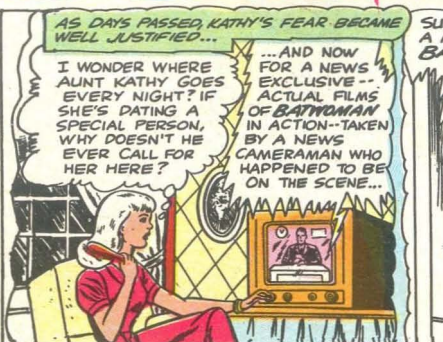
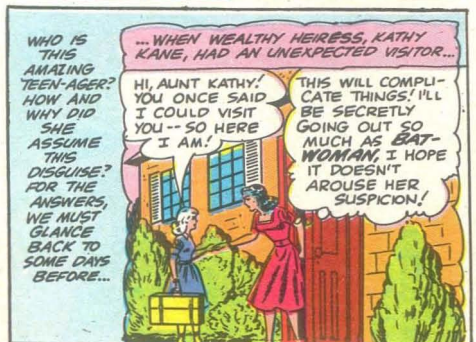


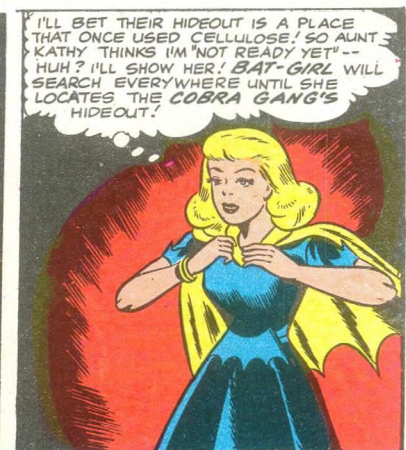
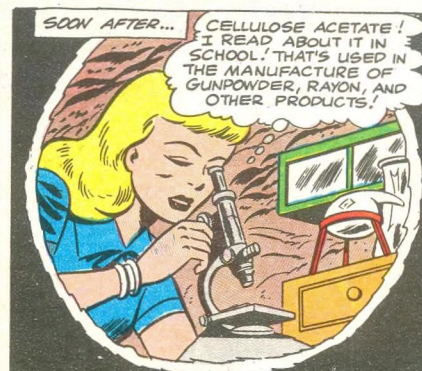
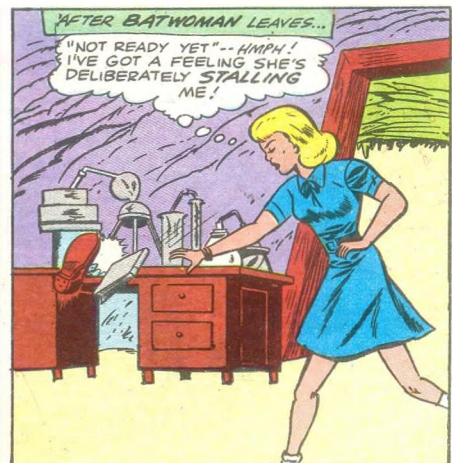
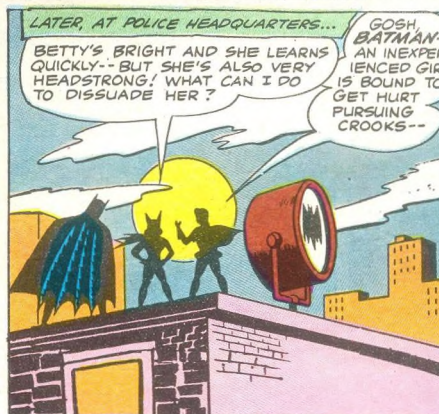
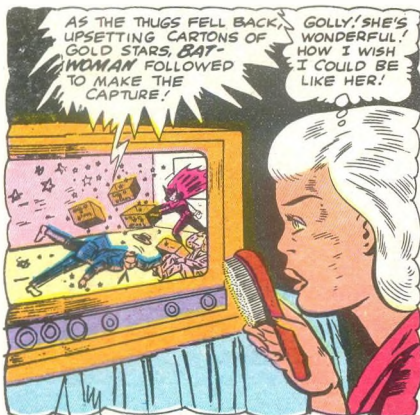
AS HE-MAN APPROACHES FAKER ...

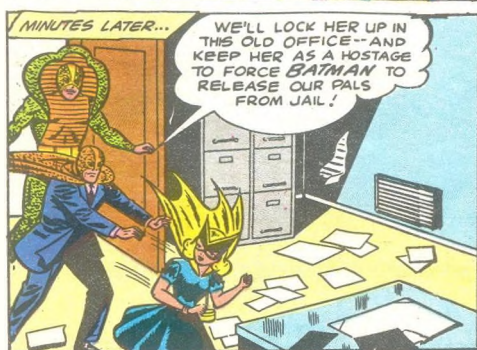
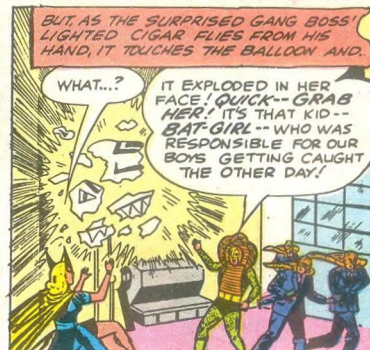
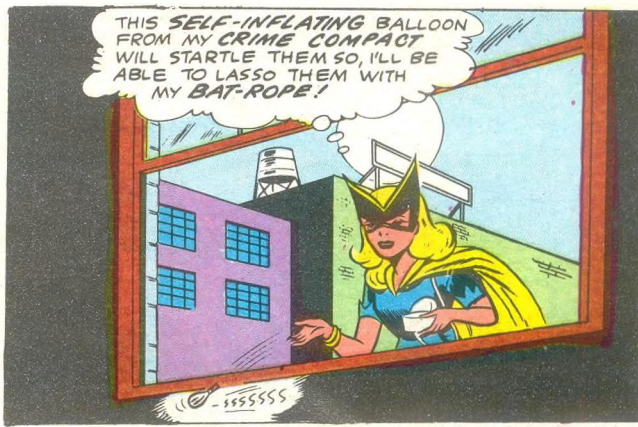


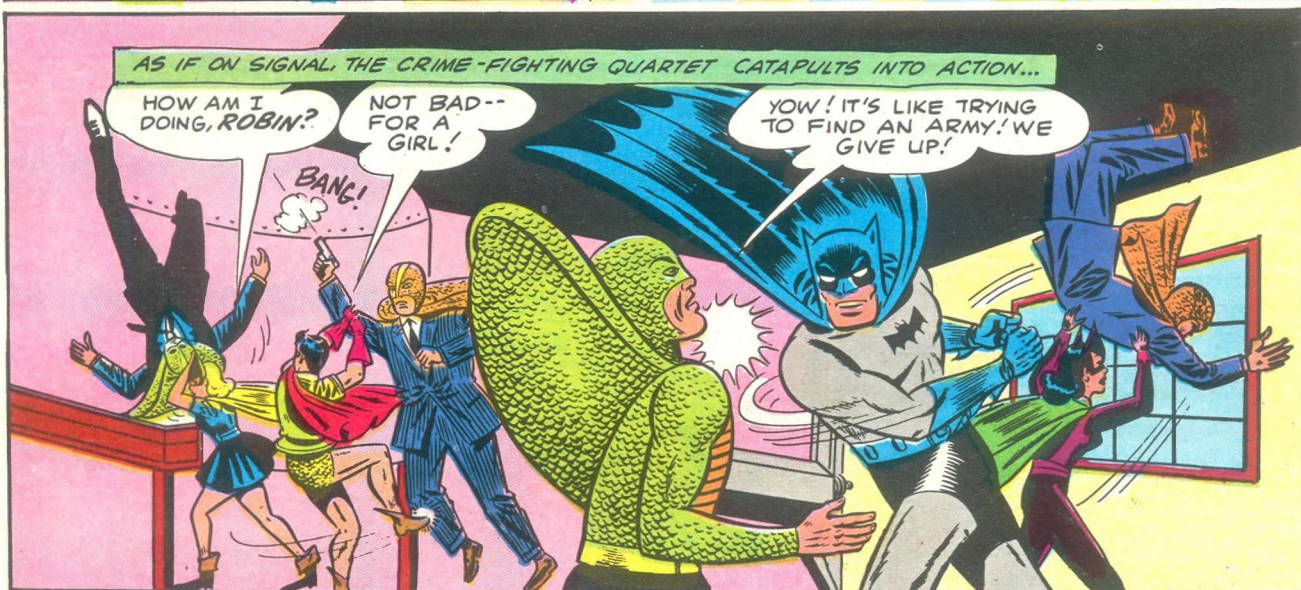






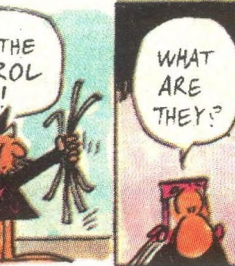
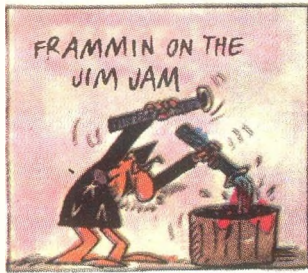






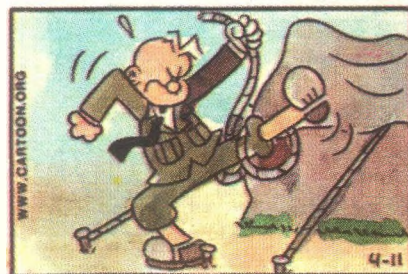
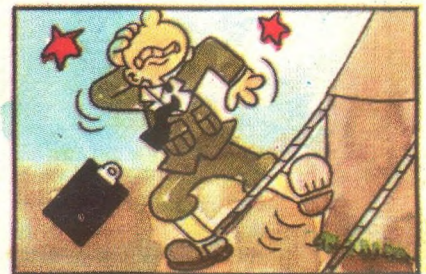
Wizard of ID

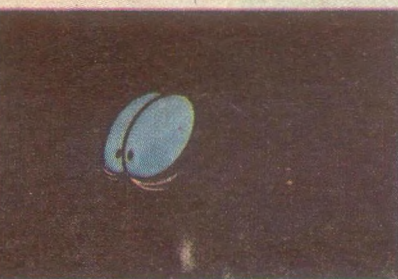
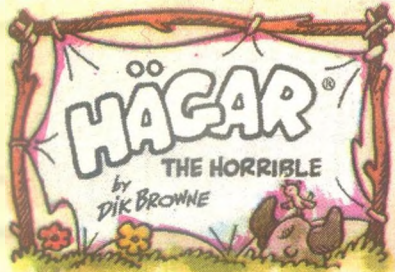
by parker and hart



beetle bailey

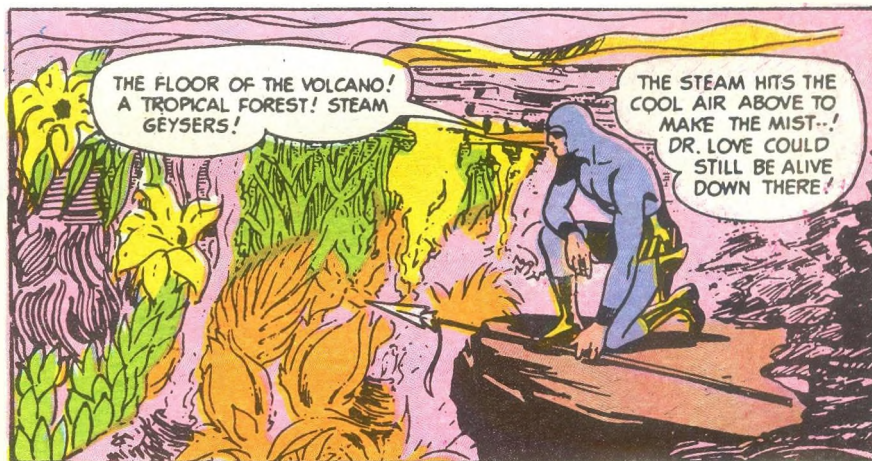
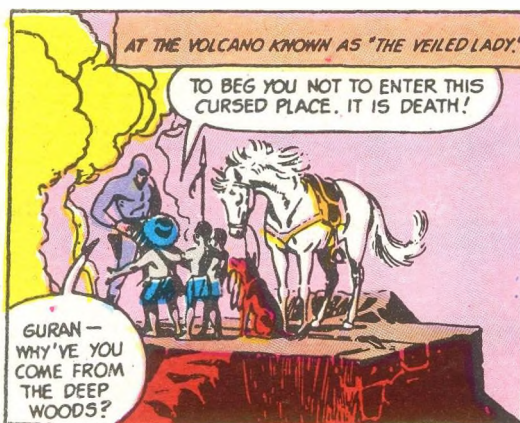
by mort walker

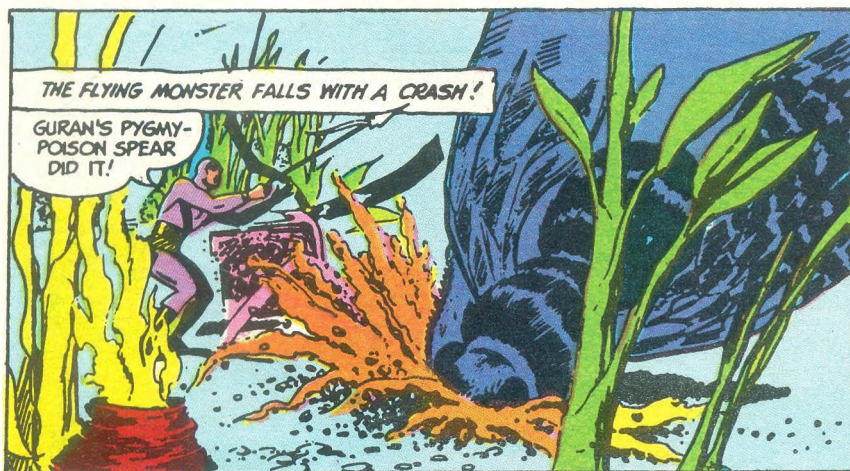
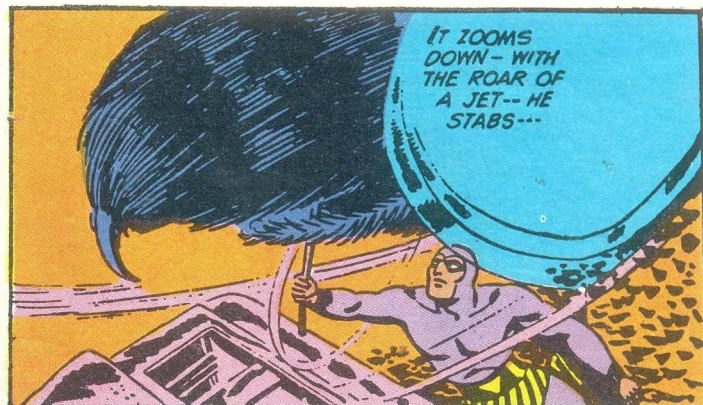
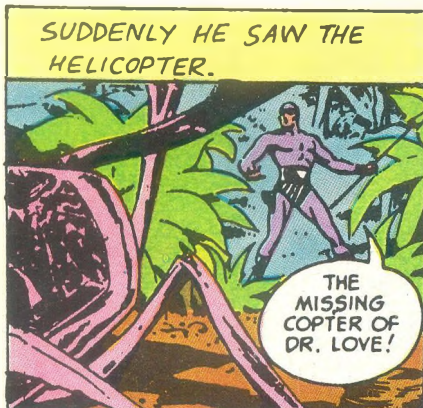
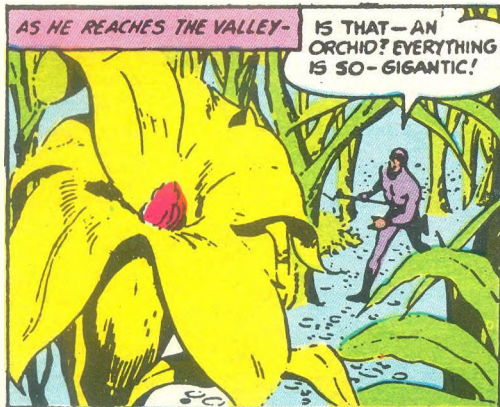


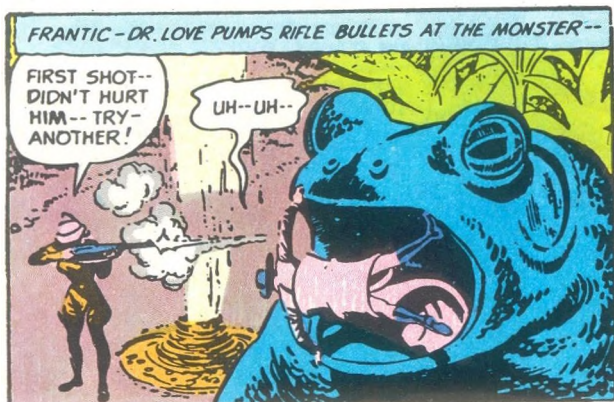
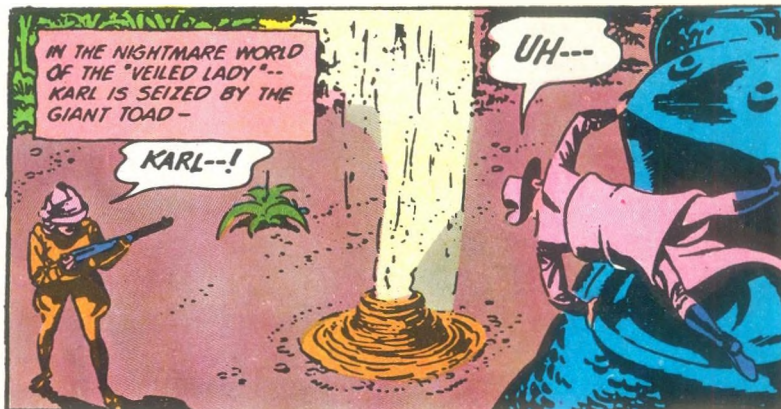
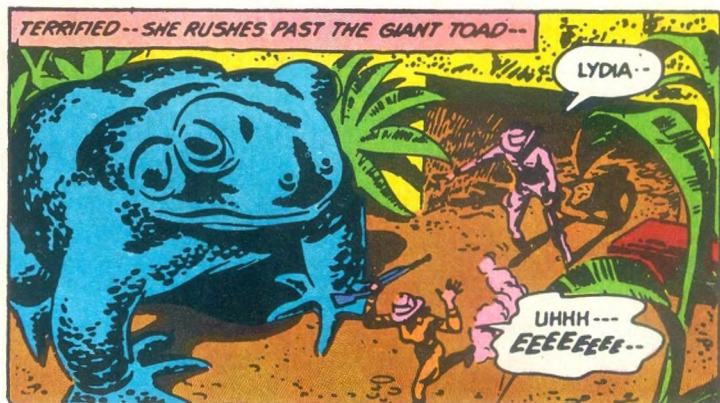


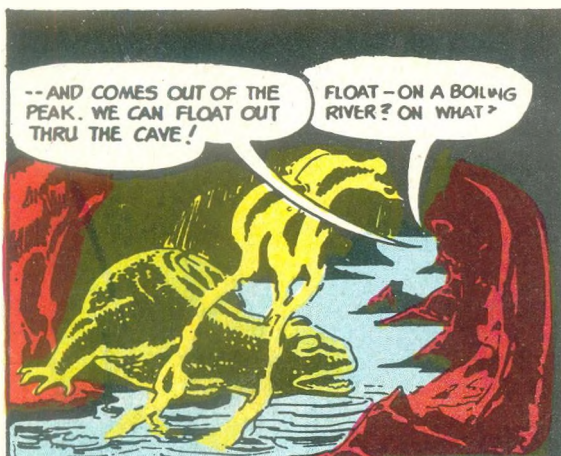
PHANTOM VEILED LADY

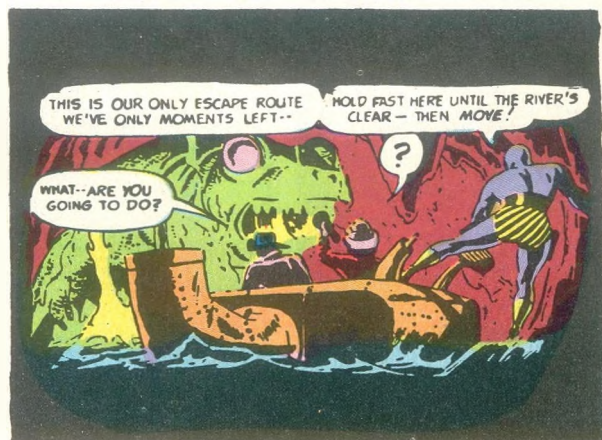
NEAR VEILED LADY-THE MOST ANCIENT VOLCANO.

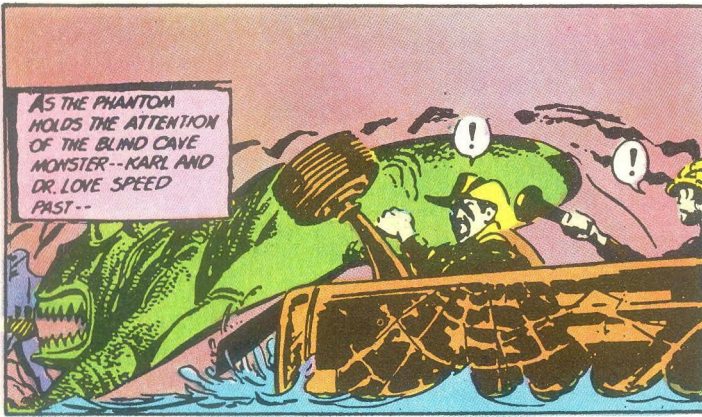




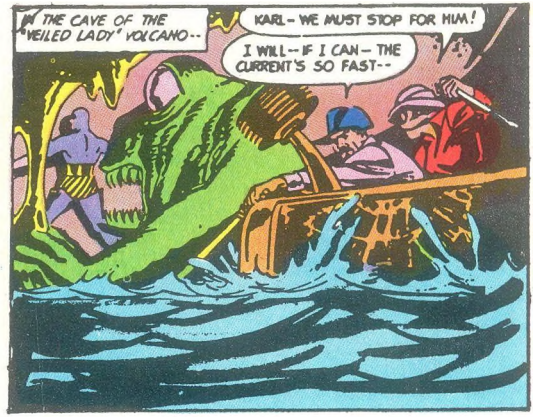








AS THE PHANTOM
HOLDS THE ATTENTION
OF THE BLIND CAVE
MONSTER--KARL AND
DR. LOVE SPEED
PAST--



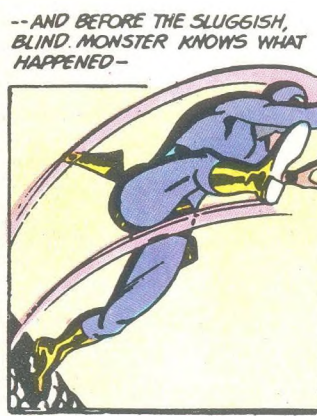
IN THE CAVE OF THE
"VEILED LADY" VOLCANO--

KARL-- WE MUST STOP FOR HIM!

I WILL-- IF I CAN-- THE
CURRENT'S SO FAST--



WITH A MIGHTY LEAP--
HE VAULTS OVER THE
GREAT JAWS-- ONTO
THE MONSTER'S HEAD!

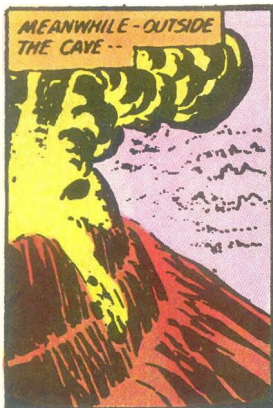


--AND BEFORE THE SLUGGISH,
BLIND MONSTER KNOWS WHAT
HAPPENED--



THAT WAS--
MARVELOUS!

THAT HOT LAVA'S
COMING! WE'VE GOT
TO MOVE FAST!



MEANWHILE--OUTSIDE
THE CAVE--



SUDDENLY THE CAVE SHAKES VIOLENTLY--



LOOK--THE
POOR THING--
IT'S CAUGHT!



THE CAVE IS FILLING UP
WITH LAVA! IT'S RED
HOT! HURRY--
HURRY.

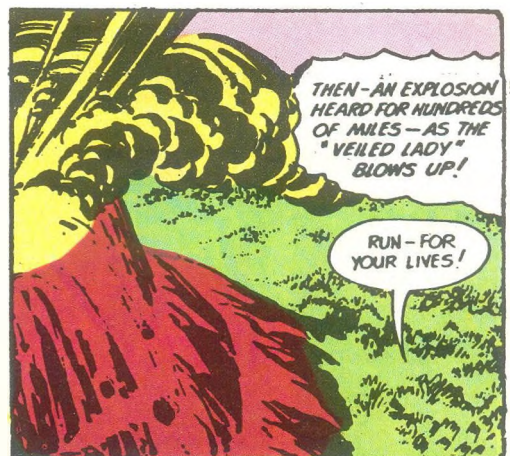
WE
CAN'T BE FAR
NOW--



THE OUTSIDE WORLD
--AT LAST!

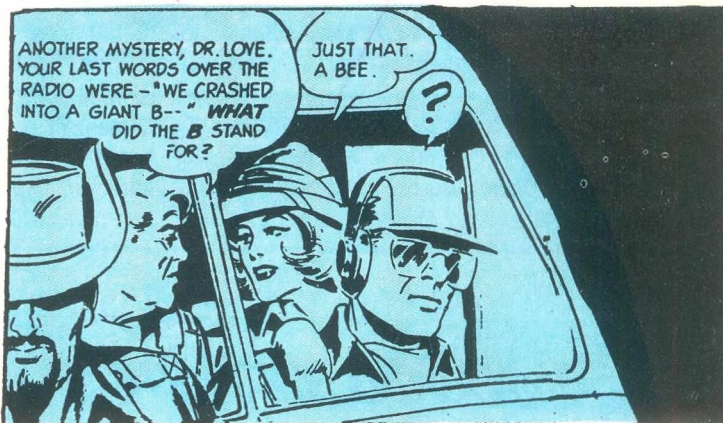
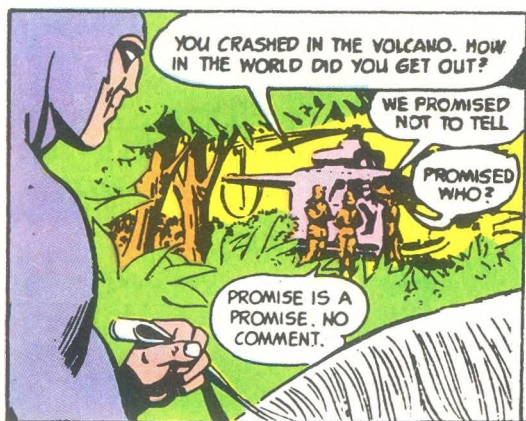
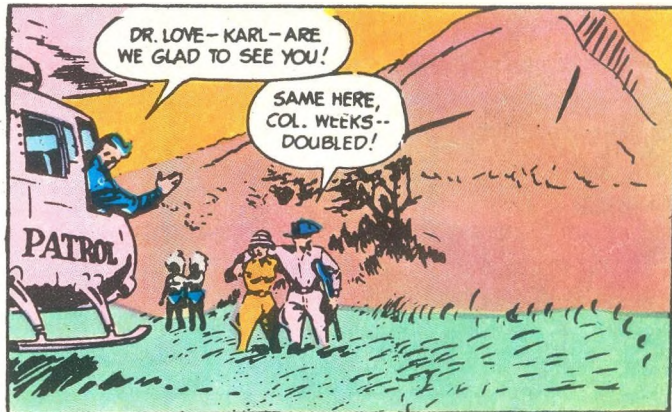
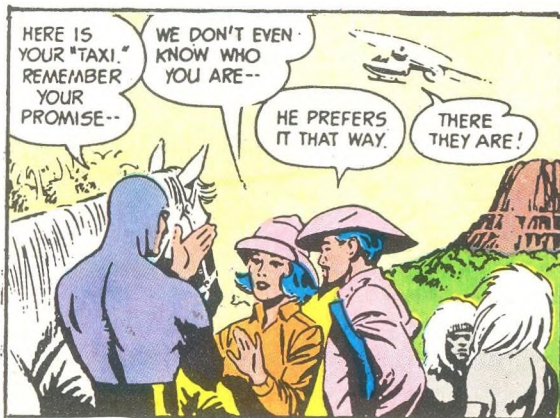
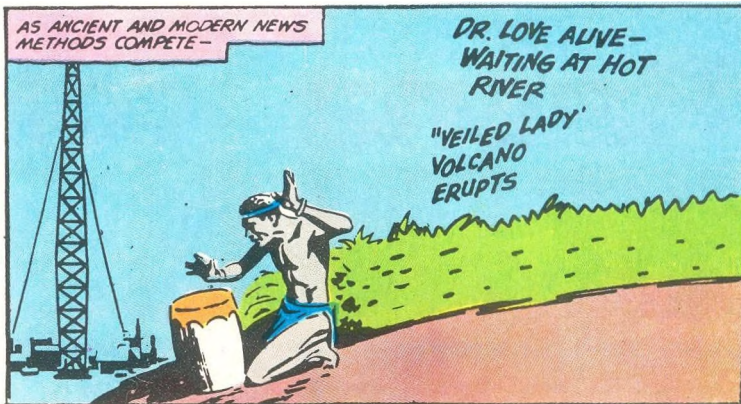
HERO AND DEVIL--
WAITING FOR US!

WE'VE
MADE IT!



THEN--AN EXPLOSION
HEARD FOR HUNDREDS
OF MILES--AS THE
"VEILED LADY"
BLOWS UP!

RUN--FOR
YOUR LIVES!



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Sports Quiz

Which Game
does
it represent?



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10 differences In the
Far Right Picture



win
100 fabulous prizes

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From the desk of Ruskin Bond

Little World of Mud

Return to the pond.....

I soon got into the habit of visiting it on my own, to explore its banks and shallows. Taking off my shoes, I would wade into the muddy water up to my knees, to pluck the water lilies off the surface.

One day, when I arrived at the pond, I found it already occupied by the buffaloes. Their owner, a boy a little older than me, was swimming about in the middle of the pond. Instead of climbing out on the bank, he would pull himself up on the back of one of his buffaloes, stretching his slim brown body out on the animal's glistening back. When he saw me staring at him from across the pond, he smiled, showing gleaming white teeth in his dark, sun-burnished face. He invited me to join him for a swim. I told him I could not swim, and he offered to teach me. He dived off the back of the buffalo and swam across to me. And I, having removed my short and shirt, followed his instructions until I was struggling about among the water lilies.

The boy's name was Ramu. He promised to give me swimming lessons every afternoon.

Before long I was able to swim across the pond to join Ramu astride a contented, basking buffalo. Ramu came from a family of milk-vendor and had received little schooling. But he was well-versed in folklore and knew a great deal about bird and animals.

I liked the buffaloes too. Sometimes we tried racing them, sitting astride different buffaloes. But they were lazy animals, and would leave one comfortable spot only to look for another; or, if they were in no mood for hectic activity, would roll over in the water, depositing us into the mud and green

scum of the pond. Emerging from the pond in shades of green and brown, I would slip into the house through the back door, to avoid Grandmother's wrath, then hurriedly bathe under a tap before getting into my clothes.

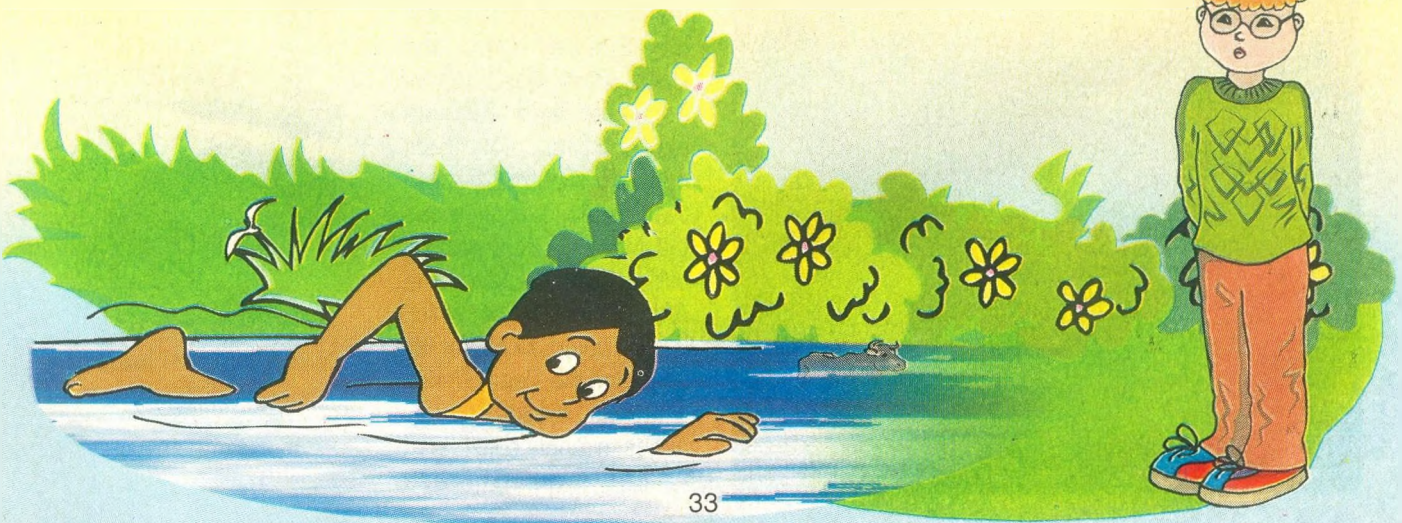
Sitting on our favourite buffalo, Ramu and I watched a pair of Sarus Cranes prancing and capering around each other. Tall, stork-like birds with naked red heads and long red legs, these birds are always devoted companions, and it is said that if a Sarus is killed, its mate will haunt the scene for weeks, calling sadly, and sometimes even pining away and dying of grief. They are held in great affection by village folk and will often "adopt" a village, living on its outskirts. And they are as good as watchdogs, giving loud trumpet-like calls if strangers approach. This particular pair of Sarus Cranes seemed to have adopted our pond and bungalow, for we were to see them often in the coming months. Both Grandfather and Ramu felt that people should be gentler with birds and animals, and not kill them for sport, or profit.

"It is also important that we respect them," said Grandfather. "We must acknowledge their rights on the earth. Everywhere, birds and animals are finding it more difficult to survive because we are destroying their forests. They have to keep moving as the trees disappear."

Ramu and I spent many long summer afternoon at the pond. The buffaloes and the frogs and the Sarus Cranes shared our friendship. They had accepted us as part of their own world, their muddy but comfortable pond.



Ruskin Bond



BARRY O' BRIEN QUIZ

Endangered Species



Barry O'Brien



Many species of animals are now extinct and many more are on the "Endangered Species" list. A species is considered

endangered when its members are so few or its natural habitat is so limited that unless specially protected, it will disappear. Some species have been wantonly destroyed for pleasure or for commercial purposes. Sometimes pastoral and agricultural expansion, forest fires and the introduction of alien plants and animals into inland areas destroy the natural habitat and cause a void.

Ecologists have been warning us for some time that all animals and plants and their environment depend on one

another for their survival. Some animals prey on others, some are herbivores, and some plants and animals die out naturally. But nature, through a system of checks and balances, ensures that all other plants and animals continue to exist. If this balance is interfered with, life on Earth is directly affected thereby endangering the existence of our planet's flora and fauna.

The rate at which rainforests are being destroyed is alarming. An area equal to a football field is disappearing every three seconds.

In his search for timber and more (and for farming, man has been destroying rainforests systematically and now barely half of the world's rainforests are left. What we are now left with is wet deserts.

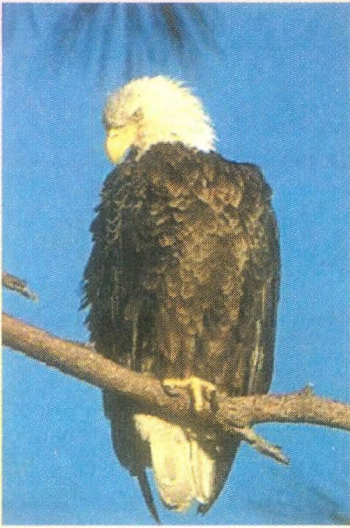


According to scientists, about 2000 plants growing in these forests could yield medicines to cure cancer, AIDS and other diseases. But remember, only a hundredth part of such plants have been studied so far, and the others may simply be destroyed before they are tested.

Forests make up the natural habitat of many animals, most of which are now extinct.

These include the Bald Ibis, the Carolina Parakeet and the Spanish Lynx, the Dodo, which was killed for its meat and became extinct almost 400 years ago, the Asiatic Cheetah, the Passenger Pigeon and the Moa, a Large grazing bird of New Zealand. The African Black Rhino, which is still being killed for its horn, and the Tiger in India, which is hunted for its bones, wrongly considered valuable in Chinese





medicine, are on the verge of extinction.

But there is hope yet! Conservation is now foremost on everyone's mind. A number of societies and organizations have been set up to protect or conserve forests and wildlife. The most famous of all is the World Wildlife Fund, now known as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

This Earth will never again see so many animals but, due to a sense of urgency, protection is now given to endangered species. Till recently, there were only about 500 two-humped Bactrian Camels in the Gobi Desert. Their numbers have increased and very soon they will be off the "Endangered Species" list; the Bald-headed Eagle is already off this list.



Here is a quiz on animals that are on the "endangered species" list.

- 1) Which animal is highly endangered as it is hunted for its musk gland?
- 2) Which animal, found in Manipur, lives on swamps made up of a thick mat of humus and dead vegetation that floats?
- 3) Which is the smallest species of turtle in India that is on the verge of extinction?
- 4) Which animal, found only in the Rann of Kutch, is one of the rarest mammals ever to be seen?
- 5) Which large, long-legged, ground-living bird, the heaviest bird in India, can fly but walks more than it flies?
- 6) Which animal, that once freely roamed the area between Arizona and New Mexico, was trapped and poisoned by hunters?
- 7) Which seal, found in the Mediterranean, has not been seen since 1962?
- 8) Which species of antelope, found in North Africa, was hunted for its meat and is now almost extinct?
- 9) Which three species of animals, one from Indonesia, one from Mexico and one from Central America, have become extinct because of deforestation and agriculture?
- 10) By what name is the Kashmir Stag, found only in the northern valleys of Kashmir, also known?

ANSWERS
1. Musk Deer 2. Sangai or the Browantlered Deer 3. Cochin Cane Forest Turtle 4. Wild Ass (Central America) 5. Tapir Rabbit (Indonesia) 6. Mexican Grizzly 7. Monk Seal 8. Addax 9. Short-Eared Owl 10. Hangul

Send your entry to:
COMIC WORLD
257, Dariba Kalan, Delhi-26

Name.....Age.....
Address.....

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

Which animal was hunted for food, blubber and a cash crop of tusks?

Answer of the Last month's
Question
Scrabble



SHAMSHIR LUTHRA'S CHATTER MATTERS

PERSONAL GROOMING

Shamshir Luthra

Probably the first thing which strangers notice about an individual is how he or she dresses. This doesn't mean whether or not he or she wears expensive clothes but how well chosen they are, how clean, how neat, and how suitable for the occasion. So watch your clothes. Keep them clean, well pressed, and well brushed. Arrange the things you carry in your pockets so that they won't bulge and spoil the lines of your suit (this is for the men or boys).

Men/boys - choose your shirts with the same care you do a suit. If you operate on a limited budget, you'll find plain white shirt is correct for every occasion, looks well with suit or tie of any hue, and is more becoming to every complexion than a coloured one.

Don't buy white - flannel trousers unless you're sure you can afford to keep them spotless and pressed. Nothing looks quiet as sad as slightly mussed and soiled white trousers.

Keep your dark shoes shining and your white shoes white. Shoes are tremendously important in advertising personal pride. Have run-over heels repaired at once.

The difference between looking neat and looking sloppy is

attention to small details of dress.

Keep your clothes in good shape all the time and never appear in public unless you are looking your best. It's fatal mistake to spend most of your days in careless disregard of your clothes and then appear at parties 'all dressed up'. It always shows, because you can't help being self-conscious about your appearance. Neatness about your person counts as much as neatness in clothes. Keep you nails short and clean, but not polished.

Keep your hair clean, cut, well-brushed and well combed. Don't plaster a lot of smelly, sticky paste on it. Keep you face looking clean and smooth-shaven.

Never, never, never appear in public looking as though you'd forgotten what a razor is intended for. A matter of deodorants - there are inexpensive ones. It's mighty good idea to get into the habit of using one all the time. You want to smell clean as well as look clean. Please don't forget this little habit.

Keep you teeth shining and fresh. This will be easy enough if you brush them a couple of times daily, use a mouthwash before going out, and see your dentist when you should.

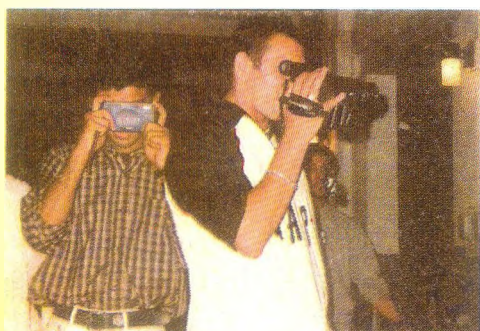
Ahead is a never-ending journey...

God made man, and the Centre for Personality Development promises to make you a gentleman - infusing confidence, creativity and an attitude to wear, to take on the world.

Workshop on how to build self-confidence and Effective Presentation skills?

Is beauty the only criteria for being Miss World 2000? Or is it your personality? Whatever field you are in, your confidence is the most important asset that enhances your personality. College and school students, "Palmolive da jawab nahin."

Cricketers, ranting politicians, silent models, mumbling V.J.'s, aspiring D.J.'s, fumbling R.J.'s, ambitious actors, high-pitched teachers to aspiring poets.



Handling interviews to winning debates, performing on stage to facing camera, using the microphone, or addressing a board of directors, every situation demands absolute confidence. Our workshop is chock-full of confidence-building exercises.

Workshops at Centre for Personality Development
S - 350, Greater Kailash - 1. New Delhi - 48 Tel. 6412419, 6411886

I'm not Satisfied!

1. I am 20 years old and am studying in college. I come from a joint family, and my father wants me to join the family business as soon as I finish my graduation. But I love music and want to become a music composer. We are established business family, and since I am the only son (my sister got married last year), my father has a lot of expectations. What should I do?

Sanjay Puri, New Delhi

Sanjay, I wish your dad was like Anupam Kher in DDLJ! saying that I worked hard all my life so that "Mera bachcha vo kar sake jo main nahin kar saka." But don't lose heart, yaar. The first option you have is to run off and do your own thing, but this will be very hard on your father who has worked hard to establish his business hoping that one day you would give to it all that he has not been able to give. If you leave him, you will hear the usual cry of a hapless parent: "Tumhen isi din ke liye itna bara kiya tha!"

What I suggest is that you join your dad and help him, work very hard to settle in your business and make it an even bigger success. Then from whatever you get as salary or profit share or pocket money, save some amount and try to set up your own studio. If you are really serious about your music, don't lose sight of your dream and whatever time you get off from your business, spend it in learning music, meeting your music composer and trying to compose music! If you want to meet any of my music composer friends, do let me know. Remember, no doing awaragardi (flirting) with useless friends. Sanjay, anybody involved in business is recognised as a businessman, but not everybody who likes to compose music becomes a musician. To be a musician and be recognised as one, you have to be the best in your field, and this requires immense hard work and dedication. If you are not up to it then do your business and get married, have kids, acquire a paunch and go through life as others do. Otherwise, stick to your dream and work hard to get that level of excellence and perfection. Once you achieve recognition, your dad will realise

how serious you are about your dream, and he will encourage you, instead of insisting that you forget about music.

2. I am a 35 years old housewife. I have done my M.A. in first class, but before I could get a job, I got married. Now my kids have grown up and don't need me around the house so much. I would like to work now, but I don't know what to do and how to approach people to give me a job. I am confused and worried. What should I do?

Shalini Srivastav, Hyderabad.

Aisa hai Shaliniji, it's never too late to start doing anything in life. All of us have immense potential to achieve what we want. You want to spend your time productively, all right. Let's start! First make a list of you talents, or things that you do very well. For example, if you like experimenting with how furniture and other objects in your house are arranged and enjoy creating beauty out of these lifeless objects, you start by assisting an interior designer!

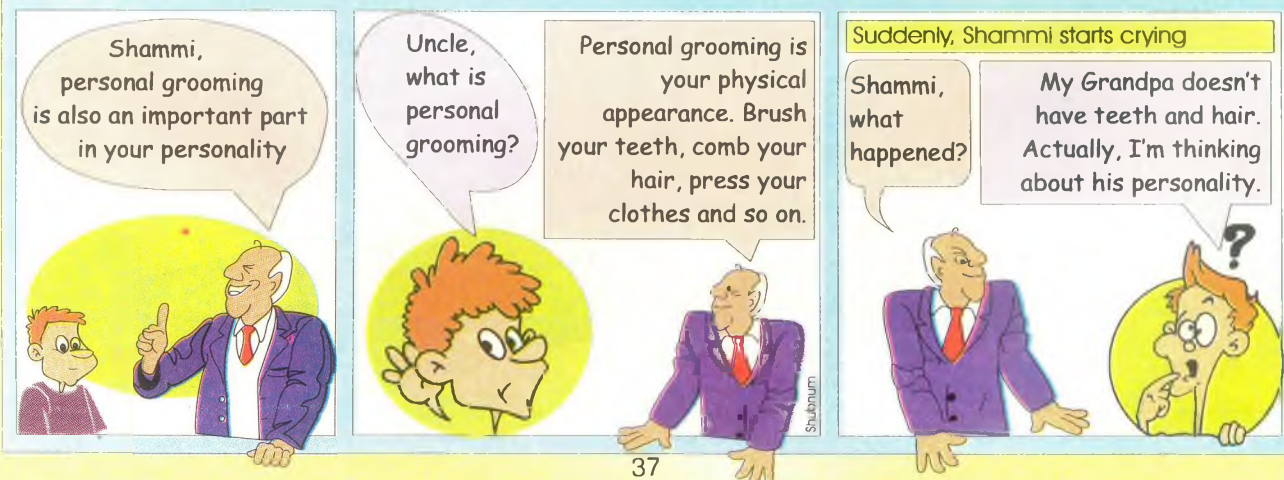
If you are meticulous about everything from household finances to your shopping list, you would make a good secretary. Since you are a post-graduate, if you enjoy teaching your kids, you could take up teaching or do something for adult literacy. If you shed tears for a dead animal that you have seen lying on the road, you could get into projects for social work.

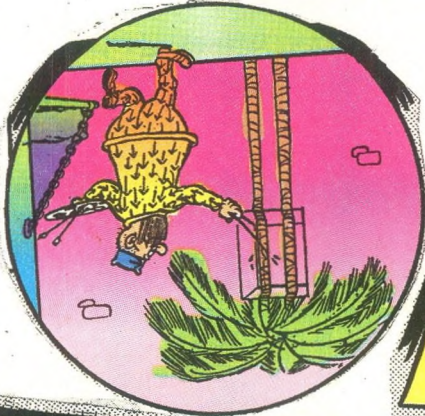
So there is no dearth of jobs for you to exploit your talent in. You just need to do two things first, identify your talents and then ask yourself whether you would like to work for money, or for personal satisfaction, or both. Believe in the fact that you can do what you want to. After you have organised your priorities, it will be very easy for you to identify the kind of work you want to do.

If you need further help to move forward in your chosen field, in terms of people you could contact, do contact me. Wish you all the best!

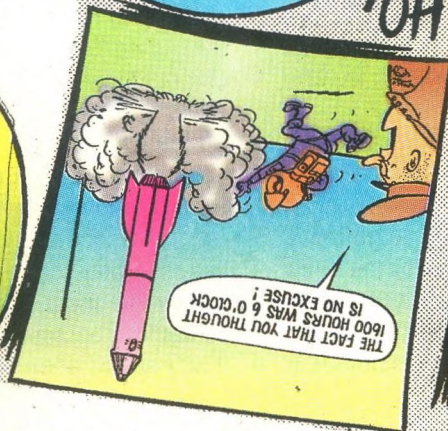
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CHOTTA SHAMMI



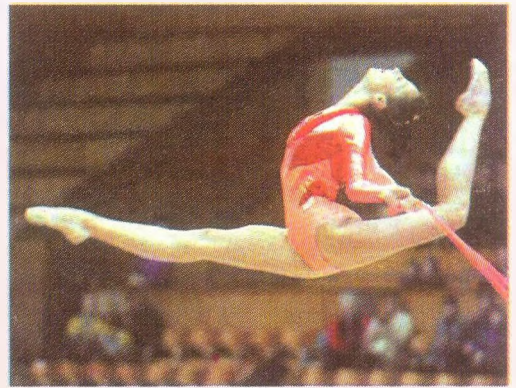


JOKE BOX



SPORTS

Rubens Barrichello of Brazil drives his Ferrari to fourth fastest in qualifying for the Australian Formula One Grand Prix in Melbourne on Saturday, March 11, 2000.



Ukraine's Elena Vitrichenko, 1997 World Champion and a bronze medalist at the Atlanta Olympics in action during the International Deryugina Cup Rhythmic Gymnastics tournament in Kiev, Ukraine, on Saturday, March 11, 2000.



Ferrari driver Michael Schumacher of Germany won the Australian Formula One Grand Prix in Melbourne, on Sunday, March 12, 2000.

A Kathakali dancer swings to the beat of the drums, during the first one_day match between India and South Africa, in Kochi on Thursday, March 9, 2000.

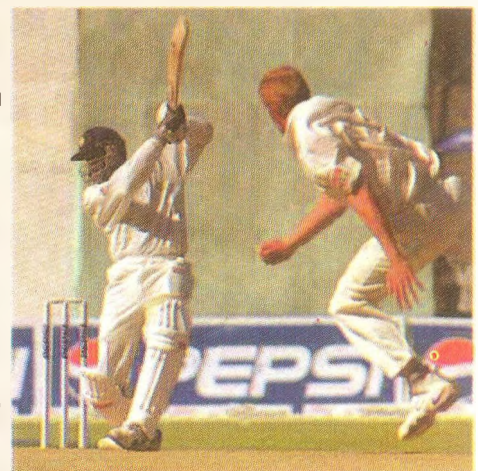


Sachin Tendulkar, right, signs an autograph for Jayakar Diwakar, left, on the eve of the first one_day match against South Africa in Cochin, on Wednesday, March 8, 2000.

Indian cricket team's new captain Saurav Ganguly, right, and team manager Kapil Dev, on the eve of the first of the five one-day matches against South Africa, in Cochin, on Wednesday March 8, 2000.



Anil Kumble, the highest scorer for the Indian side with 36 not out, ondrives South African paceman Shaun Pollock on the first day of the second Test at the KSCA Stadium in Bangalore on Thursday, March 2, 2000.



India Beat Pak by 5 Wickets

SPORTS

In times past, a crushing defeat had the longer term impact of crushing the spirit out of the Indians. The defeat in the first game was as crushing as they come, and while chatting with a friend this morning, I was making the point that

it would be incredibly difficult for the Indians to lift themselves for the game today. For one thing, recovery -- we are talking mental recovery here -- time was brief, given they were playing back to back. Second, not only did they have to lift themselves out of a deep trough, they had to do it against Pakistan, in Sharjah -- neither the opposition, nor the venue, that finds them at their best in the best of times.

Perhaps it is a mirage, perhaps it is an indication of a new spirit in the side, but today, the Indians came out focused, with the ball and in the field. And turned in a performance in the field that has few if any recent parallels.

Every single bowler was on target and bowled to the field set for him. They bowled well in pairs, supplementing each other. And the fielders dived, flung themselves around, cut off shots and in general, gave the bowling that extra edge. Alas, they could not repeat this performance in the next games.



Beware of Fake Comics



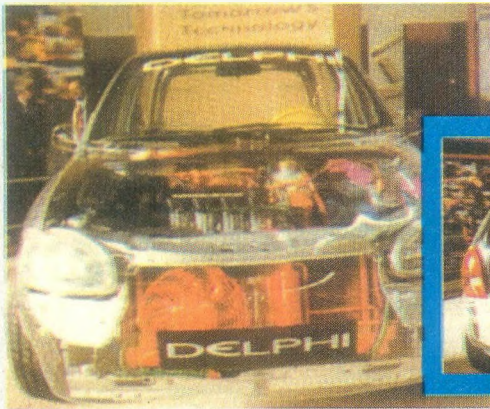
Dear Reader,

With the popularity of our characters - Chacha Choudhary, Sabu, Pinki, Billoo, Shrimatiji, Raman, Channie Chachi, Daabu, etc., some comics featuring lookalike characters have appeared and are being sold in the market. Our comics are the result of 40 years of hard labour and experience of veteran cartoonist Pran. The stories and drawings are so created that those would provide you maximum entertainment and impart some lessons as well.

So to get the maximum worth of your money, be sure that the comics you are going to buy are genuine and bears the name of its creator, Pran, and is published by DIAMOND COMICS.

Thanking you!





Transparent Car from Delphi

Delphi is rapidly consolidating its presence in the Indian market and a transparent acrylic car was the major highlight of Delphi's diverse range of exhibits at the Auto Expo. The transparent car demonstrated Delphi's approach in a unique way. It featured colour-coded components and systems manufactured by each of Delphi's eight divisions. And amongst the futuristic technologies on display was the Monsoon audio system, smart seat and a 2D racing car.

Delphi's display also included products currently manufactured in India such as half shafts, wiring harnesses, energy absorption type steering columns, gas charged shock and hydraulic shock absorbers, struts, cartridges, chassis corner modules etc.

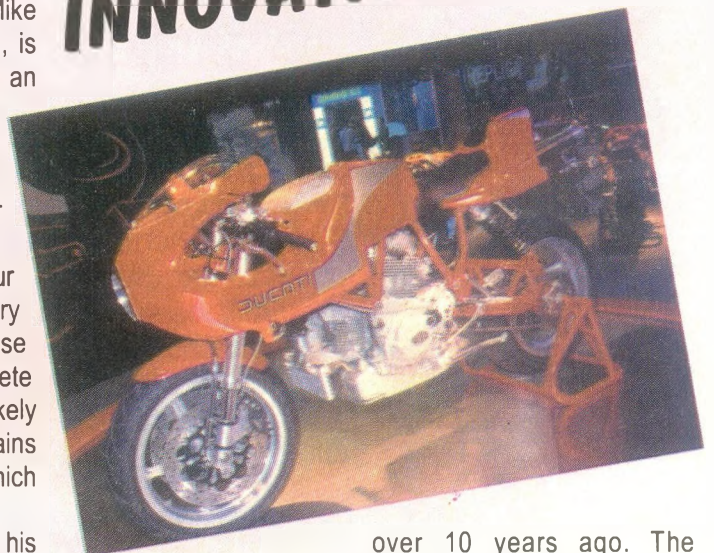
Amongst the futuristic technologies were also a Monsoon audio system, smart seat and a 2D racing car. The audio system is customised for each vehicle it is offered in and features an eight-channel amplifier with active crossovers. To reinforce its brand name Delphi is getting itself involved in motorsports. In India, Delphi has been operating as a wholly owned subsidiary of the parent company since 1995 with four manufacturing facilities and five divisions in the country. Its key customers in India include Maruti Suzuki, General Motors, Daewoo, Fiat and Telco.

The MH900e, Ducati's innovative blend of modern technology and retro styling inspired by Mike Hailwood's 1978 Isle of Man TT winning V-twin, is going into production soon. And appropriately for such an innovative machine, the Hailwood Evoluzione, which was unveiled at the Bologna Show, is the first bike ever to go on sale only via the Internet. Just 1000 examples of the MH900e will be built in the coming year, with a similar number following in 2001.

The MH900e will be handbuilt by a team of three or four technicians at Ducati's Bologna factory. When delivery starts in the summer, the bikes will be sent in a special case to the customer's nearest dealer, who will complete preparation before handing over the keys. Demand is likely to be high for the MH900e, which in production form remains very close to the prototype that was unveiled at the Munich Show 18 months ago.

Owing much to the V-twin on which Mike the Bike won his legendary Isle of Man Formula One comeback race in 1978, the Evoluzione is the 'dream bike' of Ducati's design chief Pierre Terblanche, who began sketching such a machine

INNOVATIVE DUCATI



over 10 years ago. The Evoluzione is based on Ducati's air/oil-cooled 904cc two-valves-per cylinder 900SS motor, which puts out an unchanged maximum of 79bhp.



Stars of Kinetic

The 100cc Challenger and Hyosung GF1251150 motorcycles were the stars of Kinetic's display at Auto Expo. The Challenger could truly take the fight to the established players thanks to its turnout and also its performance allied to a very competitive pricing strategy while the GF150 (denoted by a smallish half-fairing from its GF125 sibling) could be an almost simultaneous move to position a rival to the CBZ in the top end of the motorcycle business in India. The battle should be intense.

The new 75cc Kinetic Style scooterette took pride of place among the scooter offerings on the Kinetic stand. Compared to the earlier Pride scooterette, the Style is a far better integrated package and should do well. The Kinetic Marvel and the DX models would get cats from April this year while the former would also have its engine capacity hiked to 110cc. KMCL is also evaluating a new four-stroke scooter engine. Kinetic also showed its Eco Drive electric scooter with brushless electric motor and the battery pack mounted under the floorboard. Solid hail Kinetic's V2 Safari range is now joined by the Kinetic Sport with foot operated gears, a kick-start lever and racy styling. Revamped Luna moped models also graced the KEL display.



TVS AT AUTO EXPO

TVS had no less than three concept machines on display at Auto Expo of which the most exciting was the Matrix motorcycle. Using the Fiero frame and powerplant as the base, the Matrix was designed to be a road going sports motorcycle. The handiwork of Ilyas Abraham of NIID, the Matrix might not appear in production but some of its design details could be adopted for future production models. Of interest here is the use of monoshock rear suspension which we think would be the next major element to catch on with the bike makers and enthusiasts alike. The second of the concept machines - the work of TVS Suzuki designer Manivannan - was the TVS Cruise scooter which obviously is an attempt to reclothe the Spectra into something different. There is sound thought behind the redesign, notably in the floorboard area and the riding position (note the raised

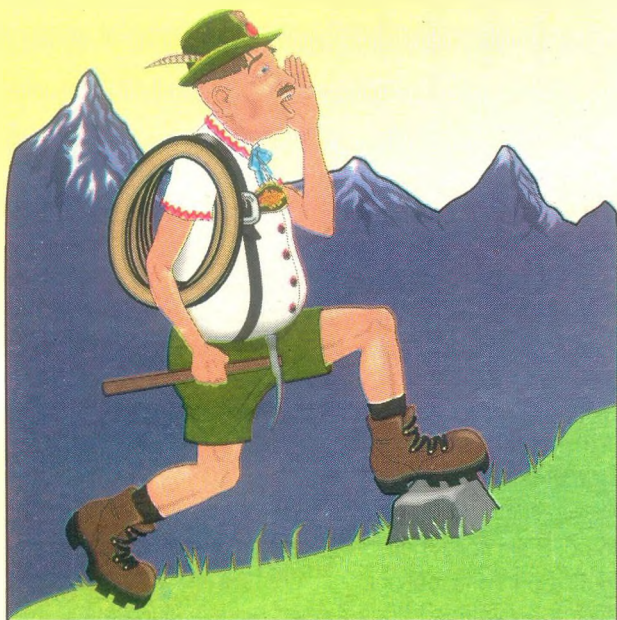


handlebar treatment). The use of multi-headlamps is a clever detail. The third and the most workable of the concepts we felt was the Ibiza big-wheeled scooterette. If the blurb accompanying the

sketchy details of this bike was any indicator, TVS is well advanced with its own small capacity - 75cc - four-stroke engines for use in mopeds and in the Scooty. The Ibiza makes do with a steel alloy space frame, features telescopic forks up front alongwith a disc brake and comes with large 14in dia wheels. Like the Matrix, yet another NIID graduate, Rahul Thomas, designed the Ibiza. And finally, the latest moped to further strengthen the stranglehold of TVS on the segment appeared in the form of the 70cc TVS Sport.

"TRAVEL LIGHT"

A Few Tips



There are many reasons to "travel light", the principal ones being...

Security: By not having to check baggage, you are much less likely to lose it to theft, damage, or misrouting. Would that peace of mind were always so easily acquired!

Mobility: You needn't get to the airport or railway station as early. You can more easily deal with delayed flights and missed connections. You will be among the first to leave the airport for your destination, while others wait for baggage delivery and long customs inspection queues. You can board trains with alacrity.



Economy: You don't have to pay porters and the like to carry stuff around for you, and you will be more able to take public transportation, rather than taxis. You can even walk. All of which will also bring you into more intimate (and thus rewarding) contact with the places you have come to visit.

He who would travel happily must travel light.

Of the several aspects to this challenge, the most important is what to take, another is what to take it in, and a third is how to pack it (particularly the folding of clothes).

What to Take (In Your One Carry-On Bag): Add items if you must, to address your business needs, hobbies, personal interests, etc., but resist the temptation to add non-essentials. If you're thinking "I might need this", you're likely

mistaken; if it's "I can survive without this", you may be right.

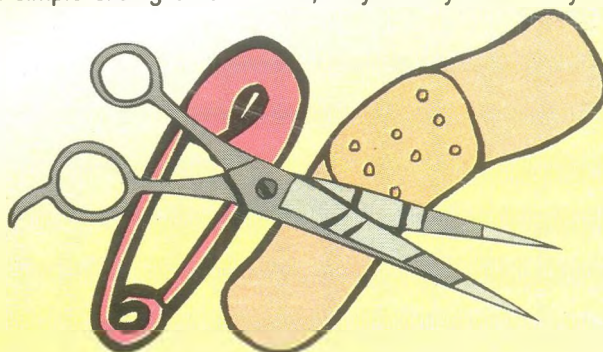
Doing the day's laundry: Smart travellers plan to wash clothes during the trip, one of the major secrets to living out of a carry-on bag. So one of your evening chores becomes doing the day's laundry (if you travel with a partner, each of you can wash on alternate days). Wash and rinse the clothes (most days, this will only be socks and undergarments) in the sink of your hotel. Rolling wet clothes in a towel, and wringing the towel tightly (with clothes inside), is an old traveller's trick to extract water and thus considerably speed the drying process.

Choosing Clothing:

Minimise clothing by selecting a uniform (one or two) colour scheme. Choose fabrics carefully: natural fabrics can be cooler, but wrinkle more easily ("bundle folding" helps considerably, by avoiding hard creases), dry more slowly, and are generally heavier than synthetics. Knitted fabrics are less prone to creasing.

Necktie, scarf, hairband, bandannas: Accessorising is a good way to stretch a wardrobe; for women in particular, a well-chosen scarf can dramatically alter the appearance - and thus multiply the utility - of an outfit. Costume jewellery also works well in this manner. For men, consider a bow tie; it not only packs smaller, lighter, & more wrinkle-free, it also transforms a blazer into notably more formal attire. In colder weather, a long woollen scarf can be surprisingly effective.

Flashlight, extra batteries & bulbs: A flashlight (torch) can be surprisingly useful, for late night reading, finding your way to the toilet, or ... Make sure you pack along a sufficient quantity of the necessary Lithium batteries. Avoid lights with a simple sliding on/off switch, or you may arrive at your



TRAVEL TIPS



destination to discover that shifting luggage contents have turned the switch on, and you now have one less set of batteries than when you started out.

Multipurpose tool (e.g., Swiss Army knife, Leatherman tool), scissors: The term "Swiss Army knife" has become part of the language. In recent years, their position has been seriously challenged by the Leatherman tools, which are extremely well made and add a serious pair of pliers to the kit. If you wear glasses, make sure your chosen multipurpose tool can handle the associated screws (or consider carrying one of the tiny eyeglass repair kits, commonly available at pharmacies).

Should your chosen tool not include them, add a pair of compact, folding scissors.

Safety pins, rubber bands, cord: Nylon parachute cord is the most versatile type. In addition to their obvious uses, safety pins will hold the drapes closed in a hotel room, often a prerequisite to getting a good night's sleep. Stainless steel (non-rusting) safety pins also work well as "clothespins", and although I generally prefer the style of clothesline discussed below, the cord & pin solution may offer advantages if you're camping out, and trying to discourage casual pilferage. Sewing kit, including large needle to accommodate dental floss

Pens, small notebook, glue stick: Most journeys will yield interesting items of information along the way (addresses of people you meet, the locations of hotels, restaurants, and other recommended attractions, a record of photographs taken, even a trip diary); make sure you bring something in which to write them down. It can be as simple as a small coil-bound notebook, or elaborate as a hardcover journal into which you glue the ticket stubs, business cards, and other memorabilia that will recall your adventures in years to come.

Be careful: Briefly, pants are rolled up to the knees, and the upper part, along with underpants, lowered to the knees (you don't want them around your ankles!). Items capable of falling are best removed beforehand; retrieving them will likely be impractical. You squat by first bending the upper part of your body forward (to maintain balance), then lower yourself by bending your legs, coming to rest quite naturally

(and comfortably) on your haunches and legs. Reverse to rise. Aim is more important in squat toilets than in sit toilets, so don't fire indiscriminately.

Bundle folding: A much better is the use of the bundle folding technique. Bundle folding involves the careful wrapping of clothes around a central core object, avoiding the hard folds that result in creases. That's the story in a nutshell, but of course there are plenty of implementation details!

Begin by selecting the item that will form the core of the bundle: an organizer pouch is a good choice. The optimal size will depend somewhat upon the configuration of your bag and the amount of clothing to be packed, but something around 11 x 16" (29 x 41cm) should work well. The pouch is filled with soft items (socks, swimsuit, undergarments, sheet bag, etc.) to form a sort of cushion around which the clothing will be wrapped.

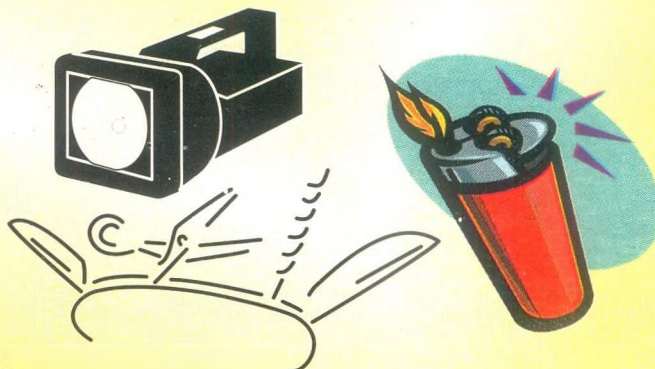
Clothing is packed in a specific order, so that the larger and more tailored garments will end up on the outside of the bundle, with less easily wrinkled pieces closer to the core. An appropriate sequence (beginning, as you will begin your packing, with the outer layer) might be:

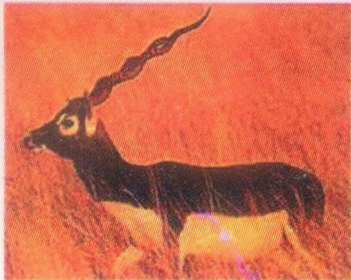
1. jacket
2. skirts, dresses
3. slacks
4. long-sleeved shirts
5. short-sleeved shirts
6. sweater, knits
7. shorts



When you arrive at your destination, open out the bundle to let the clothes "relax". If you plan to be there for any length of time, hang the clothes where possible (doing so in a bathroom with some steam generated by running a hot shower should get rid of any wrinkles that did occur - if it doesn't, find garments of a more forgiving fabric).

And yes, this is the downside of bundle folding; at the very least, you are likely to need items from your core pouch, so you must resign yourself to unpacking and repacking the bundle whenever you change destinations. I don't find this much of an inconvenience: few items are involved, a little practice makes one quite good at bundle folding, and unpacking/hanging clean clothes is a good idea in any case.





Manas National Park, Assam

The only tiger reserve in Assam and famous for the

rare golden langur, Manas National Park is one of the best kept national parks in the country. Manas National Park is located on the banks of the river Manas in the foothills of Bhutan. This park is well known as one of the world heritage sites having its unique combination of scenic beauty and rare wealth of wildlife.

Park Population: Being a tiger reserve Manas is famous for tigers. The other exclusive specie is the pygmy hog. The park harbors about 20 species of animals That include panther, clouded leopard, marbal cat and other variety of cats, elephant, rhino, swamp deer, sambar, barking & hog deer, dhole, binturong, otter, bison, buffalo, golden langur, and spotted deers.

There are numerous species of feathered beings nest in the park. The reserve also receives many visitors from all over the world who come during the winters and fly back on the onset of summers.

Park Trips: The park can be entered on elephant back or in



a jeep or by car. These trips give you good opportunity to observe the wildlife in their natural habitat. The ride on elephant is both exciting and pleasurable.

Getting There: Manas National Park is 176 km from Guwahati from where is easier to drive than to take any other transport. For Manas the nearest airport is Borjhar airport, Guwahati. The nearest railhead is Barpeta road. This station is 136 km from Guwahati. Manas is well connected by network of roads which connect the place with other cities and towns in the state.

SUNDERBAN

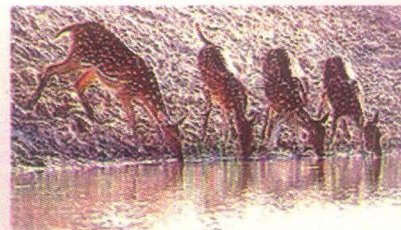
Towards the south of Calcutta, the rivers Ganga and Hoogly divide itself into many distibutaries. The speed of water is reduced and the river deposits its silt just as it is about to merge into the sea. In due course, the accumulated silt takes the shape of islands on the mouth of the rivers. These are the famous Gangetic deltas. They provide an ideal atmosphere and environment for the Sundari trees to grow. Spread over an area of almost 10,000 sq kms (now shared by Bangladesh and India), the Sunderbans are home to many exquisite animals and birds. The Indian Government has declared this 1330 sq kms of area as a national park.

Once this area was a paradise for tiger hunters. But the rapid fall in the Royal Bengal Tiger population forced the government to declare tiger poaching as illegal and the area came under the Project Tiger. Tigers in Sunderbans is known to swim a record distance of 10 kms. They also hunt fish if

hungry or steal honey from the bee hives. Tigers are not the only attraction in Sunderbans, there are estuarine crocodiles and shy jungle cats or the fishing cats. The reptiles found in the forest includes the King Cobra, Rock Python and Water Monitor.

During the winters the olive ridley turtles descend to nest the shores of Kanak island. The tigers can be easily spotted at the water holes at Sajnekhali, Sudhanyakhali, Netidhopani and Haldi.

There are regular bus services from Calcutta to this place. But the main areas of the sanctuary can only be accessed only by riverine waterways. The best and the safest way to visit Sunderbans is on conducted tours. One can also avail the services of the private vessels from Canning, Gosaba or Basanti.



Corbett National Park

Nestling in the foothills of the Himalayas, the Corbett National Park, with the inclusion of the Sonanadi wildlife sanctuary to the west, extends over an area of more than 1200 sq km. Varied topography and vegetation gives Corbett a rich diversity in habitats and natural beauty. Flat valleys are interspersed with hilly ridges and the Park's rolling grasslands known as Chauras provide an excellent view of its wildlife.

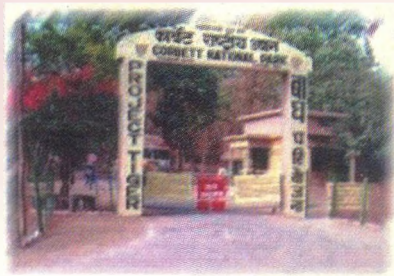
The magnificent Ramganga River flows through the park. While the dense cover of sal cloaks the higher ridges, mixed deciduous forests are found throughout the park.

This wildlife reserve is named after a famous British hunter-- Jim Corbett. Corbett, who had written the famous book, *The Man-Eaters of Kumaon* was greatly revered by the local people for hunting down tigers that had developed a liking for human flesh. He was instrumental in setting up the reserve and eventually 'shot' more wildlife with his camera than with his gun.

Park Population : Corbett has the highest density of Tiger in the country-- approximately one every 10 sq km and it was here that the prestigious "Project Tiger" was launched in 1973. Four species of deer -- hog deer, sambar, chital and barking deer and other prey like the wild boar, are fodder for the tiger.

Besides the tiger, Corbett is a haven for 50 mammals, 580 kinds of birds and 25 reptile species. The park has elephants, the Himalayan black bear in the higher elevations, sloth bear, varieties of lesser cats, dhole the wild dog and an entire spectrum of colourful birds including water birds, pheasants, jungle fowl and the Indian hornbill. Basking along the banks of the Ramganga are the slender snouted Gharial and the mugger or marsh crocodile.

Getting There: The nearest airport to the Corbett Park is the Pantnagar airport. The nearest railhead is that of Ramnagar. It is 51 kms from Dhikala. Entry to the forest is just outside Ramnagar.



Ranthambore National Park

The Ranthambore National Park was the hunting ground of Maharaja of Jaipur. In 1955 it was declared a game sanctuary; in 1980 it became a national park.

But with the commissioning of Project Tiger in 1972, it was included in the project. With the addition of neighbouring Keladevi and Mansingh sanctuaries, the total area of the park stands to 1,334 sq km.

Ranthambore is a heritage site because of the picturesque ruins that dot the park. There are lake palaces, chhatris, old fortifications and a majestic 1,000-year-old fort overlooking the park. The lovely Jogi Mahal is located at the foot of the fort and gives magnificent view of the Padam Talao, painted white with water lilies.

The park is famous for tigers and due to conservation efforts, the tiger population has stabilised if not increased here. The tigers can be spotted quite often even during the day, at their normal pursuits-- hunting and taking care of their young ones. Ranthambore is one of the best places to see these majestic predators.

Park Population: The tigers are the prize attractions of the park. Other inmates of the park are the antelopes- nilgai, sambar and chital which are easy to spot. Those who are lucky even get to see the sloth bear, wild boar, chinkara, porcupines and jackals, leopard, jungle cat and march crocodile.

The lakes and water holes in the park are the best place to sight the animals.

Getting There: The nearest city to the park is Sawai Madhopur. This place also provides the nearest railhead for the national park. It is 11 km from Ranthambore. Make sure about the trains if you are planning to reach the place by rail. The nearest airport is that of Jaipur which is about 145 km away.



TOURISM

Kullu and Manali

Enchanting Landscape and Awe-inspiring Beauty

A guide to India written by an American describes Kullu and Manali as "two of the most enchanting mountain towns in the world" which offer "everything mortals need for a heavenly holiday." Yet, the author laments, "these mountain hamlets are only half as far from Delhi as celebrated Kashmir, but they seem many times more remote". But during the decade since these lines were written, Kullu and Manali have emerged among the most popular tourist destinations not only in summer but also in the rest of the year.

Manali has experienced a major tourism boom in the recent past. Also termed as 'The Valley of Gods'; Kullu valley and its adjacent Manali is one of India's most popular holiday resorts offering a wide range of adventure

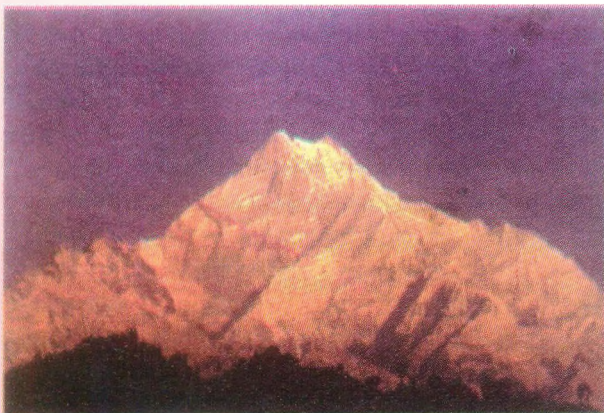
facilities and places of tourist interest. Indians looking for a beautiful holiday destination choose it again and again because of its enchanting landscape and awe-inspiring beauty.



A Rare Experience in Sikkim

Amidst the grandeur of the mountain peaks, lush green valleys, fast flowing rivers & terraced hills, Sikkim offers visitors a rare and singular experience. The trek to Dzongri is scenic and invigorating with more than 20 varieties of rhododendrons setting the forest aflame with colours along the trail. The sunset leaves memories of a spectacular view of giant mountains towering over the serene land.

Perched atop a ridge at a height of 1520 mts. lies Gangtok, a town touched by a panorama of colours. Gangtok is the capital of Sikkim, with captivating architectural beauty, which radiates with painted turquoise roof and gay bazaars. Sikkim's 194 monasteries or Gompas have not only influenced the cultural heritage and lifestyle, but also demonstrates the ancient rituals in practice.



TOURISM

A Boat Trip to Elephanta Caves

Regular launches sail from the stone Gateway of India across the harbour to the island. Check the times of sailings during the monsoon, as the water can be choppy. But during the 'winter', the ideal time to visit western India, a day trip, or the regular four-hour package deal with a guide included can be a great experience. Many families take picnics, which they eat on the hillside above the cave temples, with a panoramic view of Bombay harbour and jagged Bombay skyline, punctuated nowadays with skyscrapers, mosque domes and temple spires. Once a launch has chugged over the bay, you transfer to shallower-draught boats to land on Elephanta. Take a flash for your camera and a torch if you want to illuminate the spectacular images of Shiva, his consort Parvati and realms of celestial beings, associated gods and demons. Originally a massive stone elephant that prompted the Portuguese, who landed in the 16th century, to give this name to the island, marked the landing-point at Elephanta.

Like all the late temples at Ellora, those at Elephanta have three entrances and some secondary sanctuaries with

actively used as a shrine. Exactly who was responsible or when they were carved is not certain, but the date of 750 AD carries traditional weight. After being ruled by several Hindu dynasties, the island fell to the Sultans of Gujarat, and passed from them to the Portuguese, whose soldiers used the sculptures for target practice. Fortunately, the Portuguese soldiers left the great Trimurti alone. Perhaps even they were in awe of it. These superb images of Lord Shiva are the ultimate on the perception of the highest form of masculine beauty and the art of stone carving.

The temple proper at Elephanta is a pillared hall roughly 90 feet long, with six rows of stone columns. As in many cave temples, the pillars show the greatest irregularity not only in alignment but in the individual details of carving; in many the corners of the bases are not even true right angles. These imperfections, due to the enormous difficulties involved in hollowing out the interior, might be regarded as architectural accidents which give life to the conception.

As you stay longer inside the Elephanta temple, the sculptured panels seem to grow in impact; at first they seem buried in the dark halls, but gradually these powerful representations of strength, love and spiritual peace become worlds in themselves. Shiva gives good scope for such a portrayal. Some of the sculptures show Shiva's function in the universe; for example he brought the river Ganga (Ganges) down to earth, the story goes, by letting it trickle through his matted hair. Naturally you would have to be thoroughly familiar with Hindu mythology to understand fully each detail. But the official guide gives an excellent talk, which is a useful introduction to Hindu philosophy. Emerging into the sunlight again, you realise that you have been in the presence of great art.



rather inferior sculpture. Non-Indian literary references to Elephanta began as early as 1579. The sacred sculptures have therefore attracted informed interest for more than four centuries. Only one of the sculptured panels, in the Main Hall, the fabulous Trimurti or three-headed sculpture of Shiva as Mahesha, the Great Lord, has survived more or less intact. All the sculptures are colossal panels chiselled out of the rock walls of the caves, each composition set in a separate alcove. It is dark, cool and mysterious inside and gradually, as the eyes accustom themselves to the gloom, the sacred power of the sculptures begins to manifest itself, despite the fact that the temple is no longer



Inca Trail & Machu Picchu

The night I arrived in Lima was nearly enough to make me turn around and go back home. Outside the terminal, I had my first exposure to the bane of every traveler - the dreaded "touts." These are the hordes of local guys, found all over the world, who incessantly hustle you to stay at their hotel, book their tour, take their taxi, and so on. Once I got by them, it was an uneasy ride into the city past heavily armed soldiers and police enforcing a curfew. To make matters worse, my taxi ran out of gas right in the middle of the freeway. Luckily, there was a full jug in the trunk and, with a push, we were soon on our way. I finally crawled into bed about 2AM.

It took the next couple of days to explore Lima and try to decide what to see in Peru. I toured the colonial district and got a glimpse of the recently liberated Japanese embassy. The armed soldiers guarding the compound were quite intimidating.... that is until they began smiling and waving for us for us to hop off the bus and snap photos of them with their proud conquest. At the hostel, I met Pascal (France), Anne, Dirk, and Jef (Belgium) who invited me to join them in Cusco for a trek to Machu Picchu.

Cusco

The others went on ahead, and I eventually found a flight to Cusco (it was quite amusing to hear the passengers applaud our pilot as he landed the plane). As luck would have it, I bumped into Dirk on the street and signed on with their group leaving the next day for the Machu Picchu trek. It was surprising to learn that this trek, which costs over \$1000 in the U.S., was just \$70 when booked in Cusco.

Alas, I must have appeared an easy mark because my daypack was stolen from right beneath my feet (Welcome to Peru, gringo). Fortunately, nothing of great importance was inside.

Inca Trail & Machu Picchu

A bus collected our group the next morning for the two-hour drive to the Inca Trail. As we rode through the high plain, surrounded by snow-capped peaks, it finally hit me that I was actually on the adventure I'd dreamed of for so long - quite a thrill! Our group included ten trekkers

(mostly European) plus a guide and three porters. We carried our personal gear and the porters carried the food and tents.

We spent the first night in a "fragrant" farmyard, then hiked to over 13,000 feet the next morning. Here, we began to see numerous signs of the ancient Inca Empire. Our guide explained that the Inca were an advanced

Quechua Indian tribe that thrived throughout Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador from the tenth to fourteenth centuries. "Inca" (Sun King) was the name they gave their ruler. Machu Picchu was their sacred city hidden high in the mountains and reached by an elaborate network of paved pathways that ran throughout the northern Andes. This culture lost power when the Spaniards arrived in the 1500s. Machu Picchu was kept secret from the Spanish and eventually re-discovered by a Yale archaeologist, in the early 1900s.

Our third day on the trail produced the most stunning scenery of all - fascinating ruins, high meadows, deep valleys, and snowcapped peaks. On the fourth and final day, we got up early and hiked to an ancient stone gateway on a fog-enshrouded pass. After waiting in the mist for over an hour, we began to catch brief glimpses of the surrounding

terrain. Eventually, the clouds parted to reveal the lost city of Machu Picchu perched below us on a broad ridge less than a mile away. We spent the day exploring the ruins and learning more about Inca history, then descended to the valley to catch the night train back to Cusco. Definitely a trip of a lifetime.



TOURISM The Solo Travelling

To make the most of your travel, skip the much publicised tourist circuits, forget the package tours and don't be misled by the so-called seasonal appeal. If you have opted for a precise date in the peak season, lured by the travel agent's inducements, be prepared to face the ruin of all happiness. You arrive at your much-awaited destination, only to be swarmed by population pollution.

Crowds crown the monuments, tourist buses are packed, hotels are booked and step by step you

Alone, there is always an opportunity to meet new people. When people venture out together in a group or as a couple, they appear self-contained. Other travellers rarely approach them and they don't feel impelled to include others in their orbit.

I even have qualms about setting off with a romantic partner, unless the relationship is ideal! Getting away together may boost a struggling romance, but it's rarely a cure when things go wrong. And distance from a partner can give the luxury of perspective -- the first real step towards solving a problem.

Solo travelling is a creative escape from the tensions of modern life, a chance to disappear into solitude to recuperate from the world, to mend wounds and return re-energised. We need to realise that life offers us two kinds of pleasures: some are essentially social, companionable, shared; others can best be sampled alone.

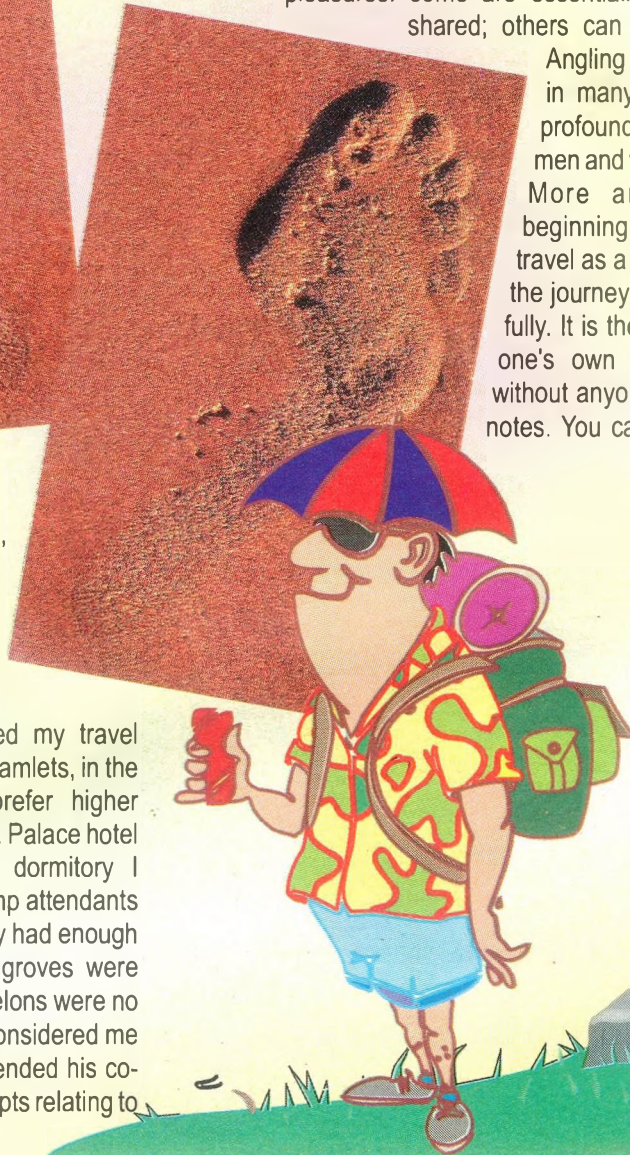
Angling alone can be inspirational in many cases poetic ideas and profound thoughts have come to men and women in solitude.

More and more people are beginning to experience solitary travel as a chance to learn and enjoy the journey, to savour the world more fully. It is the ultimate escape to go at one's own pace, and sing a song without anyone objecting to the off-key notes. You can do as much or as little venturing as you want.

You're free to do as much as you wish and that's a wonderful feeling. One of the compelling reasons to travel alone is that it can put you in touch with your own resourcefulness. You get a thrill out of making your environment work for.

will find the hassles growing.

In fact, no one has the time for you, sir. So, travel in the anti direction. Even forget the company. You are left with solo travelling and that too in the sunny clime. But there is enough shade if you choose to travel all alone. Recently I applied my travel theory and went to explore Bengal hamlets, in the dreaded season when people prefer higher altitudes. Summer had had its effect. Palace hotel was empty. For the price of a dormitory I bargained, and got, a suite. Idle camp attendants turned out to be good guides as they had enough time on their hands. The mango groves were blooming with ripe fruit and watermelons were no less colourful. The hotel manager considered me a genuinely serious tourist and extended his co-operation by unlocking the manuscripts relating to the history of the city.



HOLLY WOOD *American Beauty*

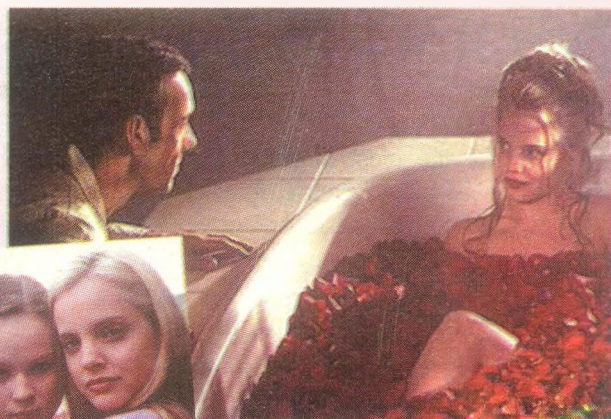
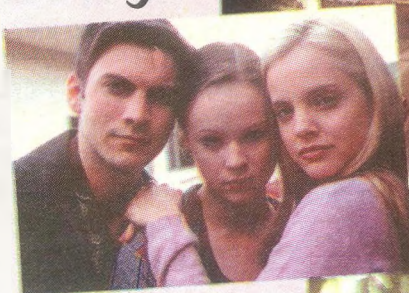
Starring: Kevin Spacey , Annette Bening , Thora Birch , Scott Bakula and Mena Suvari

Directed by Sam Mendes .

Produced by Dan Jinks and Bruce Cohen .

Written by Alan Ball .

A biting, penetrating and often humorous take on contemporary life in suburban America, Lester Burnham becomes intrigued by a young girl named Angela, and this fascination sparks him to make some major changes in his life. He relishes these changes, much to the exasperation of his wife Carolyn.



Starring: Chevy Chase , Mark Webber , Zena Grey , Schuyler Fisk , Emmanuelle Chriqui .

Directed by Chris Koch .

Produced by Albie Hecht and Julia Pistor .

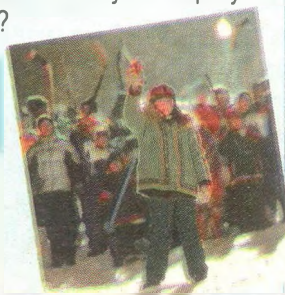
Written by Will McRobb and Chris Viscardi .



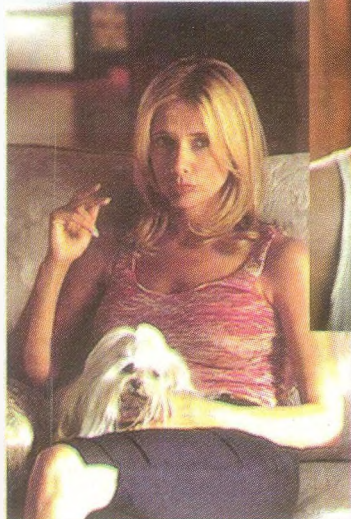
Snow Day

Anything can happen on a Snow Day-and for Hal and Natalie Brandston, it does. For 15-year-old Hal, "anything" means the determination to declare his love for the girl of his dreams, high school heartthrob Claire Bonner. Who cares if Claire's beautiful and popular and doesn't even know he exists? So what if Claire's almost-ex-boyfriend, superjock Chuck Wheeler, is his competition? Snow Day magic is a powerful thing. And with Hal's pals Bill and Lane to cheer him on, this day is destined to change his life forever. Though maybe not exactly as he planned... While Hal's out attempting to win Claire's heart, his 10-year-old sister Natalie is driven to action by the object of her own desire: the legendary Second Snow Day. The stuff of miracles, the Second Snow Day represents the ultimate triumph of kids

over the dull day-to-day adult world. Second Snow Days are so rare that no one Natalie knows has ever experienced one. Why? The dreaded Snowplowman, who crushes kids' hopes with the chains on his tires. But this year, Natalie's gonna change all that. And nothing can stand in her way-not even Snowplowman! When the sun sets on this spectacular Snow Day will Hal be found cuddling with Claire? Will Natalie have succeeded in her quest for the coveted Second Snow Day? Will parents everywhere pray for a heat wave?



HOLLY WOOD



The Whole Nine Yards

Starring: Bruce Willis , Amanda Peet , Matthew Perry , Natasha Henstridge , Michael Clarke Duncan .

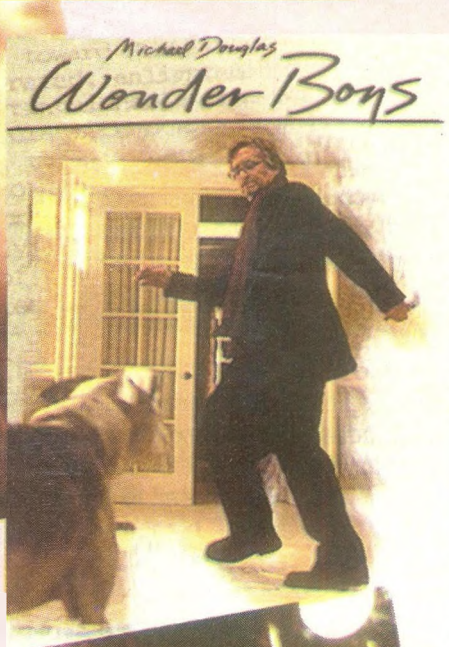
Directed by Jonathan Lynn .

Produced by Elie Samaha and Andrew Stevens .

Written by Mitchell Kapner .

Distributor: Warner Brothers

Nicholas "Oz" Oseransky is a nice dentist living in suburban Montreal. His new next door neighbor, Jimmy "The Tulip" Tudeski, is a hit man hiding out from a dangerous Chicago crime family. Despite their differences, Oz and Jimmy have one thing in common: someone's trying to kill them both. For Jimmy, avoiding a couple of hired killers is child's play. But for Oz, it's a whole new ball game. To stay alive, they're going to have to stick together Jimmy with his cunning and cold-blooded accuracy and Oz with his dental tools.



Wonder Boys

Starring: Michael Douglas , Robert Downey Jr , Frances McDormand , Katie Holmes and Tobey Maguire

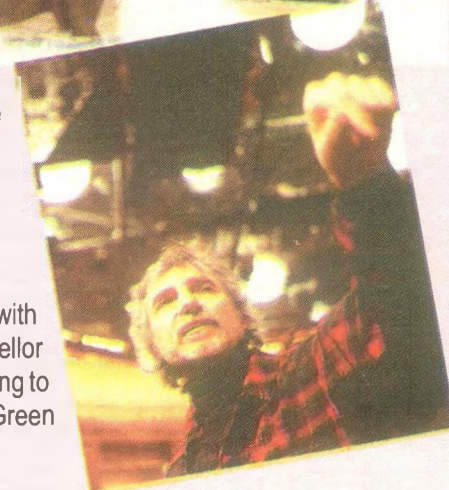
Directed by Curtis Hanson .

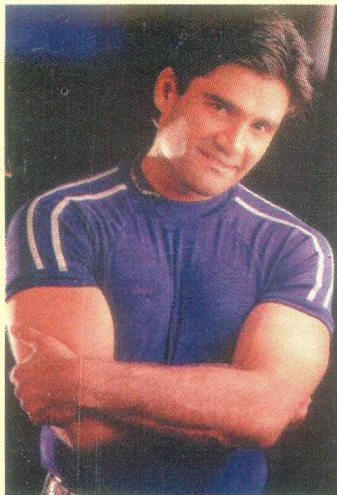
Produced by Curtis Hanson and Scott Rudin .

Written by Steven Kloves .

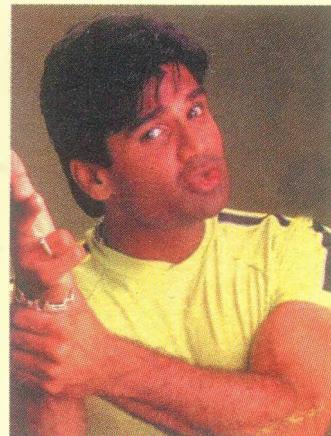
Distributor: Paramount Pictures

Grady Tripp is a professor/writer living in Pittsburgh who is struggling with writer's block. Whilst doing this, he also manages to get the chancellor pregnant. In the meantime, he and a college student, James Leer are trying to find a rare jacket once owned by Marilyn Monroe, and a college girl, Hannah Green boarding with Grady has a bit of a crush on him.





INDIPOP



Cine -star Sunil Shetty has released his first pop album, Jantar Mantar which is being targetted at the very young. Collaborators include Sudesh Bhonsale,

void in the market. What the market does have, is audiotapes with thickly accented nursery rhymes -- the nasty Amerrrri-can twang, that a parent shrinks from buying for his little child.

Sunil Shetty sings a different tune

Rahul D'Mello, and Jhanvi Srimankar. Anand Raaj Anand is the music director with Deepak Choudhary penning the lyrics.

When an action hero replaces his resonating dhishum dishum, with a music album, it really is time to sit up and take note. Why, The Big B did it when he was pretty much mid-way into (or out of?) his angry middling man career. And now, Sunil Shetty's taken the plunge into the portals of the recording studio.

Mattel Toys, the makers of Barbie, were so impressed with this album that they decided to endorse it. The collection of 33 songs, rhymes, and surprise surprise, remixes, fills an existing

Jantar Mantar, apart from other albums, like Karadi Tales, provides nursery rhymes with welcome Indian inflections. Further, the of several songs are Hing-lish, which makes for

a fun mix for children. And the surprise element doesn't stop. Even as the verse reads, "Jungle Mein ek sher, Chala chaba ke ber..." Sunil Shetty's rap interlude takes over.

The making of Jantar Mantar was a helluva experience, as Sunil Shetty pronounces. "Recording the album brought back my childhood, when I was a very shy boy," he reminisces. Himself a father of two, he says, "If I can bring a smile of joy to a little child's face, why not!" And no doubt the album has the capacity to do just that.

A sip of Indi-pop

Just a few years ago, when MTV made its first inroads into India, music meant made in the USA or England. The pop music scene in India was still split in the middle, there was a dominating Hindi film music segment and a much smaller segment that listened to English music of western groups. Pop singers like Alisha and Gary Lawyer were still some distance from cultdom.

The scene now is as dramatically different as two episodes of your favourite soap. Everything seems to be dominated by the latest craze of Indi-pop. With a host of new groups springing up in India which produce music that is both listenable as well as uniquely Indian, not just copies of western tunes.

But what's it that has made Indian pop so popular? Madhureema Joshi, a final year engineering student, says people want to become modern and adopt western beats and music, but in our country they don't always understand English lyrics, so English beats and Hindi words are a perfect blend.

Giving specific reasons for liking Indi-pop, Parag Joshi, a science student, says, "It is similar to English music so you can tap your feet and yet the language is easy to follow".

Sharing his views is Sumita Sinha, a final year student.: "It is

not that I prefer remixes but once in a while the music composed by them are really good," she says.

The reasons why Smita Parikh, a final year Arts student, likes Indi-pop are not specific. However, one clue is in her favourite group, Junoon, which has "just the right combination of music".

People prefer the more catchy western music and there are no language problems in the case of Indi-pop, although abroad, it's the other way around, because they want more traditional Indian music, says Binoy D'costa, a final year textile engineering student. Right now bhangra is really big all over the world, including India for its earthy beat. Pop really boomed up after Alisha's Made in India album, which even outsold film products around four years ago.

Somnath Kandhare of Sound of Music on M G Road says, "Indi-pop, in the form of Asha Bhosale, Silk Route, Falguni Pathak, Euphoria, has become popular partly because of the publicity it gets. Every channel plays the latest music video regularly. People want to see the video first and then buy the CD or cassette. They are more attracted to the video than the song".

Whatever may be the reason for its success, one thing is for certain, unlike other passing fancies, Indi-pop is here to stay and Balle Balle for that!

MIRROR MIRROR ON THE WALL



Now a-days, everybody is more conscious about fitness and beauty. This is the point where you won't just say 'I DON'T CARE' So, if anything is bothering you, write to us. Beauty consultant, Suparna Trikha will tell you how to take care of it.



Suparna Trikha



After bathing for hair setting can we use hair-setting machines once or twice a week?

Syed Modi, Anantapur, AP

Dear Syed, there is no harm if you use a hair dryer weekly to set your hair. What you must be careful of is that you should not burn the hair by overdrying or keeping the dryer very near to the hair.

It is good to oil the hair with warm coconut oil also once a week and give it steaming with a towel wrung out in hot water.

I am 5 feet tall and want to become taller by 6-7 inches. Please advise.

Shubhra Massi, Delhi

Dear Shubhra, a lot of our physical appearance is determined by our parents. However it also helps tremendously to exercise when on the onset of teens especially to take up stretching exercises and outdoor games like tennis, basketball and volleyball. All these outdoor games lay a lot of emphasis on stretching and help improve one's height. However at twenty it is very difficult to gain those extra inches and I'm afraid you will have to make do with heeled sandals and shoes to look taller.



Dear Suparna,

I have a broad face and would like to make it look thinner with make-up. How should I apply the blusher?

Amrita Gill, Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Dear Amrita, broad faces can be made to look thinner very easily with colours of make-up you use, how and where you apply the make-up. Take a dark shade of blusher, preferably brown tones and apply it from the cheek bone down-wards to the jaw-line, blending in well. Now take a slightly lighter shade and take from the cheekbone upwards to the temple gain blending in well and there are no visible different shades. Your face will not only look thinner but also your face will look well-defined and you will learn to contour your face. Remember that there are no hard and fast rules for make-up. You have to try experimenting with your face and what suits you. The technique for good make-up lies in blending and contouring. Always remember one rule though and that is that dark shades are used to make things recede.

Send your probes to:-
**MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE
WALL-19**

COMIC WORLD

257, Dariba Kalan
Delhi-110 006.

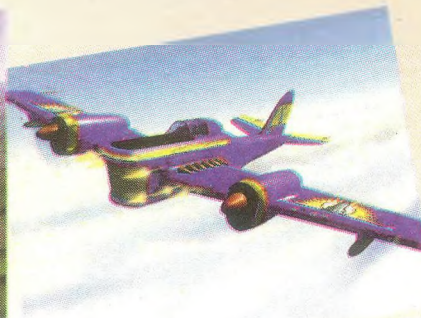
Name.....

Age.....

Address.....

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NEW COMPUTER GAMES



Crimson Skies

Combining the action of air combat with the swashbuckling feel of an Errol Flynn adventure movie, *Crimson Skies* will take players to an alternate-reality, 1930s-era United States, a country pummeled by the triple blows of the Great Depression, WWII, and Prohibition.

With a plot that evokes a classic 1930s Hollywood tale, *Crimson Skies* promises to be full of dastardly enemies, evil subplots, and femme fatales. The flight system promises to be deep but easy to learn and aims to fill all your fantasies of being a fighter pilot. You'll take to these treacherous skies in 12 planes, including the Whitley and Douglas Raven fighter-bomber, an air gyro, or Hughes Aircraft prototype planes. In some of the more than 24 missions with multiple objectives, you'll find yourself parachuting out of planes to steal a top-secret fighter, rescuing damsels in distress from speeding locomotives, or running up against ace pilots such as Paladin Blake. Look for *Crimson Skies* to be released in the third quarter of 2000.

CRISPY
CHIPS

Dungeon Siege

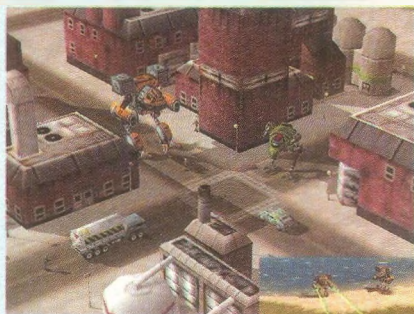
Combining the immersive elements of an RPG with the intensity of an RTS, *Dungeon Siege* will take you into a huge, continuous fantasy world where a mysterious evil has been unleashed and it's up to you stop it. You'll seamlessly travel from sinister dungeons to vast mountains without ever experiencing a pause in the action because of a load screen. On your quest, you'll encounter

fully animated 3D characters and environments, a particle system for effects and spells, and a game system that emphasises character progression, exploration, and battle rather than puzzle solving. *Dungeon Siege* will also include a proprietary Siege Editor, allowing you to tinker with almost every aspect of the game—characters, spells, dungeons, and even entire worlds to create your own

personalised games.

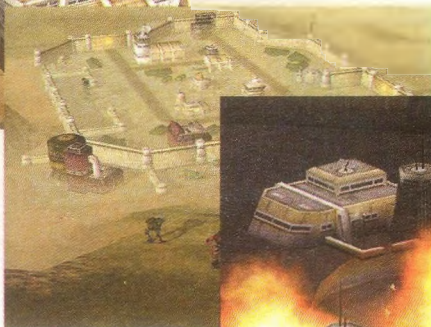
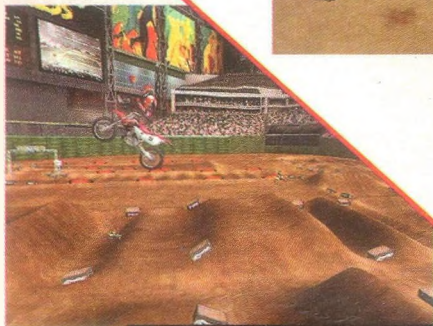
You will also be able to play *Dungeon Siege* with up to nine other players over a LAN or on the Net in games such as Capture the Castle and a campaign-style challenge. Look for *Dungeon Siege* in 2001.





MechCommander 2

The sequel to the critically acclaimed MechCommander, MechCommander 2, takes the real-time-strategy world of FASA's flagship genre into full 3D. Like its predecessor, the game gives players the opportunity to command "lances" of Mechs in combat in their bid for control. But now it's in full 3D, and MechCommander has never looked so good. The game also features a more logical application of "fog of war"; true terrain modifications, including building and landscape destruction; middle-of-scenario reinforcements; an expanded multiplayer suite; and a mission editor that ships on the CD. Look for MechCommander 2 in the first quarter of 2001.



MOTOCROSS MADNESS 2

Microsoft is hitting the dirt again in Motocross Madness 2, which will feature more dirt-bike action, off-the-hook stunts, and painful crashes than the original. Trying to improve on its first visit to the dusty tracks, Microsoft is promising more gameplay, better graphics, authentic bikes and gear, and additional multiplayer features for your journey to become a Supercross superstar. The racing environs, which include Arizona trailer parks and Costa Rican airfields, will be more than four times larger than those in Microsoft's first outing, and will feature more detailed terrain, including almost 50,000 interactive objects, such as trees, brush, and vehicles.

Motocross Madness 2 will also have variable track conditions, such as gravel, mud, and ice, as well as improved positional sound. There will also be new stunt modifications



and multiple stunt bonuses to allow for a huge number of combos and scoring opportunities. New multiplayer features will include the formation of leagues, ladders, teams, and tournaments. In addition, the game will have a new online scoring system that lets players compare scores; the top 100 online players will display a customised number plate in their races. Look for Motocross Madness 2 in the summer of 2000.

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE HISTORY OF SPACE EXPLORATION



1926 American scientist Robert H. Goddard launched the world's first liquid-propellant rocket.

1957 (Oct. 4) The Soviet Union launched Sputnik (later

referred to as Sputnik 1), the first artificial satellite.

1958 The National Aeronautics and Space Administration

(NASA) was formed.

1959 (Sept. 12)

The Soviet Union launched Luna 2, the first space probe to hit the moon.

1961 (April 12) Soviet cosmonaut Yuri A. Gagarin became the first person to orbit the earth.



1961 (May 5) Alan B. Shepard, Jr., became the first U.S. astronaut in space.

1962 (Feb. 20) John H. Glenn, Jr., became the first U.S. astronaut to orbit the earth.

1963 (June 16) Soviet cosmonaut Valentina



Tereshkova became the first woman in space.

1964 (Oct. 12) The Soviet Union launched Voskhod (later called Voskhod 1), the first multi-person space capsule.

1968 (Dec. 21) The United States launched Apollo 8, the first manned space mission

to orbit the moon.

1969 (July 20)

U.S. astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., made the first manned lunar landing.



1970 (Aug. 17) The Soviet Union launched Venera 7, which became the first space probe to transmit data from

Venus' surface after it landed on Dec. 15, 1970.

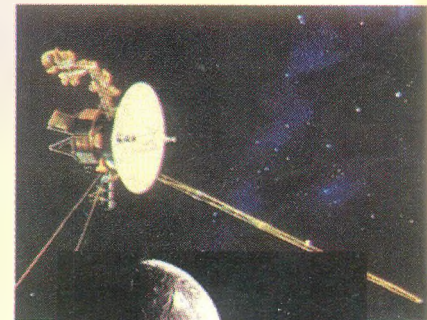
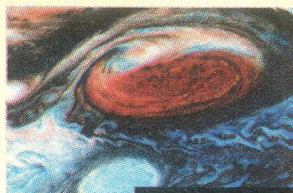
1971 (June 7) Soviet cosmonauts boarded Salyut 1, making it the first manned orbiting space station.

1975 (June 8) The Soviet Union launched the probe Venera 9, which became the first spacecraft to photograph the surface of Venus.

1975 (July 15) The United States and the Soviet Union launched the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, the first international manned space mission.

1975 (Aug. 20) The United States launched the probe Viking 1. This probe, along with a second probe called Viking 2, landed on Mars in 1976 and sent back photos and data.

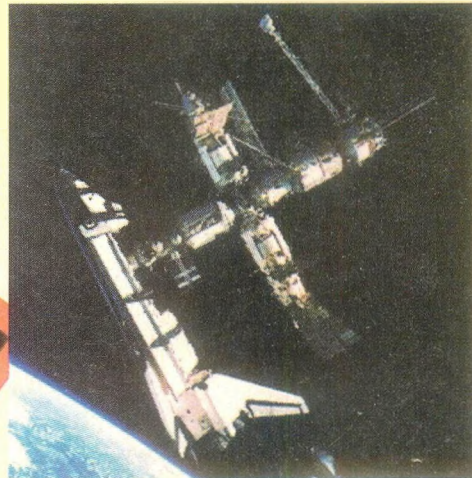
1977 (Aug. 20) The United States launched the probe Voyager 2, which flew past and photographed Jupiter in 1979, Saturn in 1981, Uranus in 1986, and Neptune in 1989.





1981 (April 12) The United States launched the space shuttle Columbia, the first reusable manned spacecraft.
1985 (July 2) The European Space Agency launch

67th mission from Kennedy Space Centre.



the probe Giotto, which passed Halley's Comet on March 14, 1986, photographed the comet's nucleus, and sent back data.

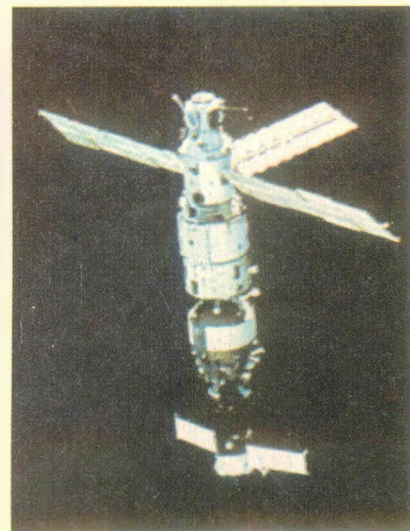
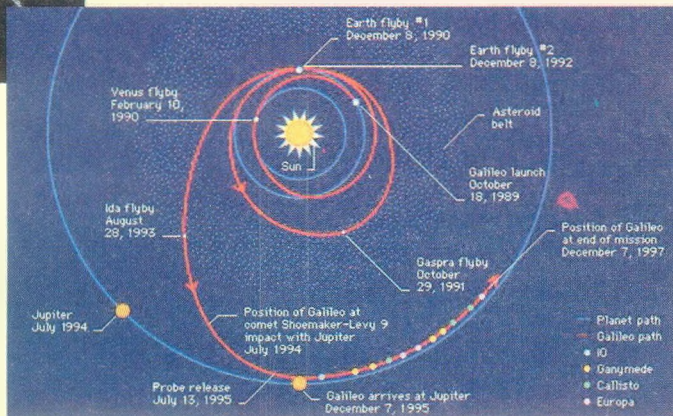


1986 (Jan. 28) The U.S. space shuttle Challenger was destroyed in an accident shortly after launch, killing all seven crew members.

1995 (March 22) Cosmonaut Valery Polyakov completed a record 438 days in space aboard the Russian space station Mir.
1996 (Feb. 20) The Russian space station Mir completed ten years in orbit.



1989 (Oct. 18) The United States launched the probe Galileo, which reached Jupiter in 1995. Galileo was far more sophisticated than earlier

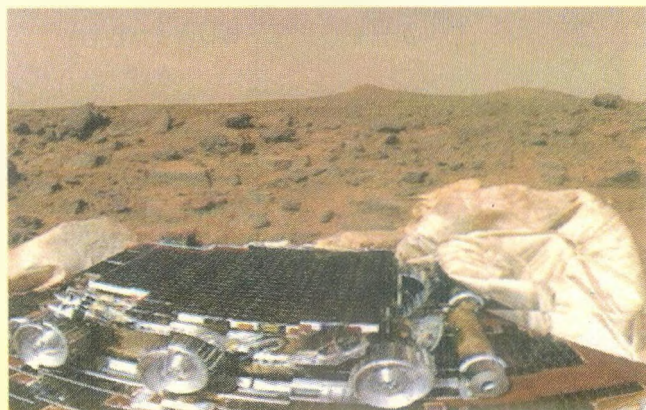


planetary probes.
1990 (Aug. 10) The U.S. space probe Magellan began to orbit Venus and sent radar images of the planet's surface.

1997 (July 4) Mars Pathfinder (launched by NASA late 1996) landed on Mars. It put a small roving robot on the planet's surface, designed to send back pictures and data on Martian weather, rocks and soil.



1995 (Feb. 3) U.S. Air Force Lieutenant-Colonel Eileen M. Collins became the first woman to pilot a shuttle when the U.S. space shuttle Atlantis was launched on its



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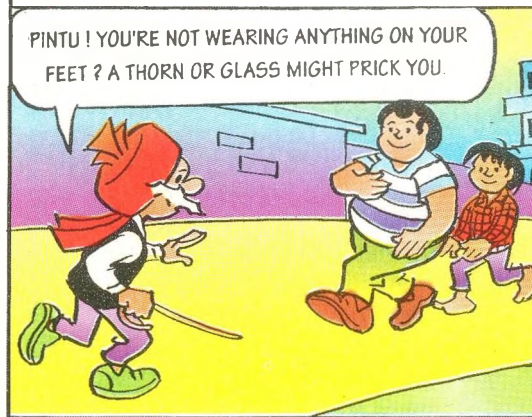
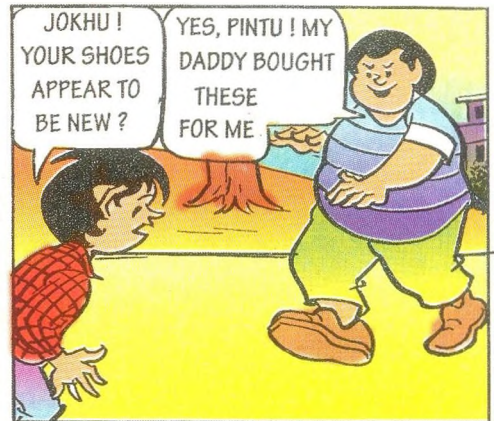
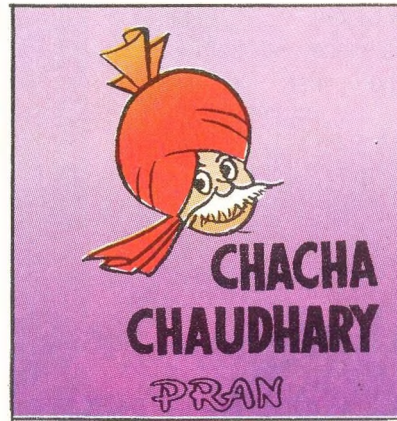


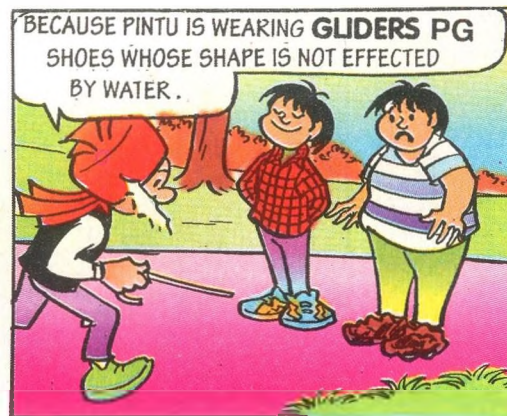
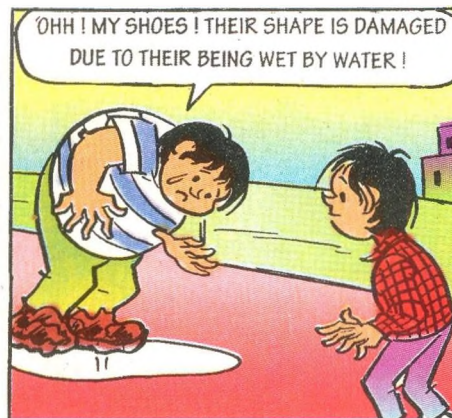
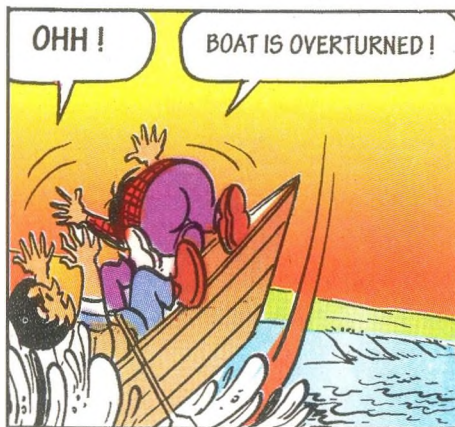
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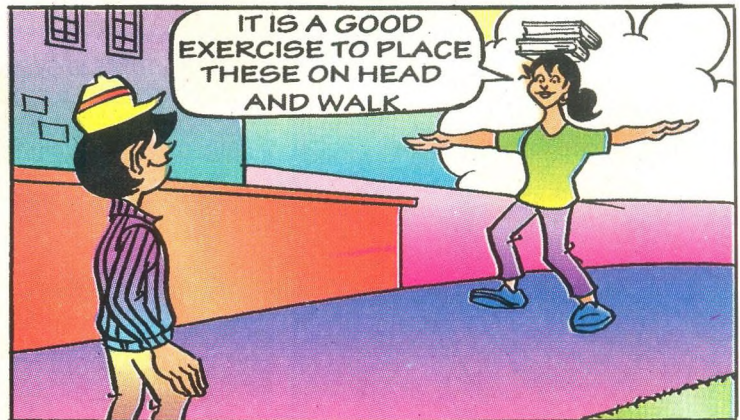
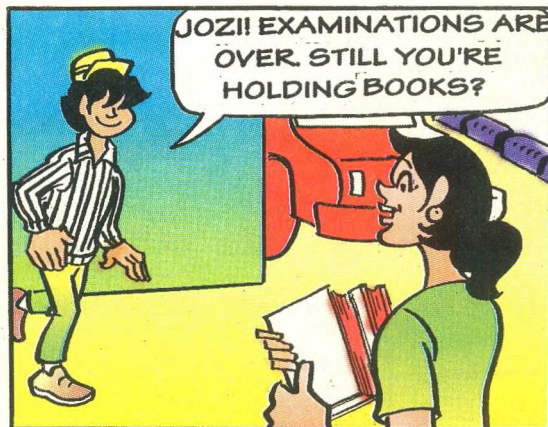


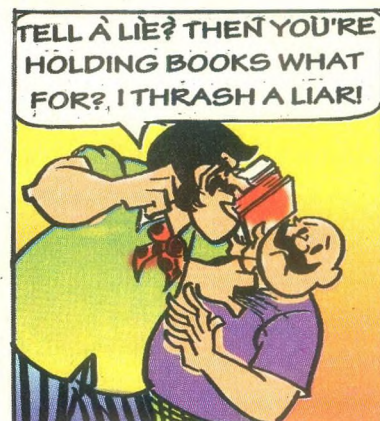
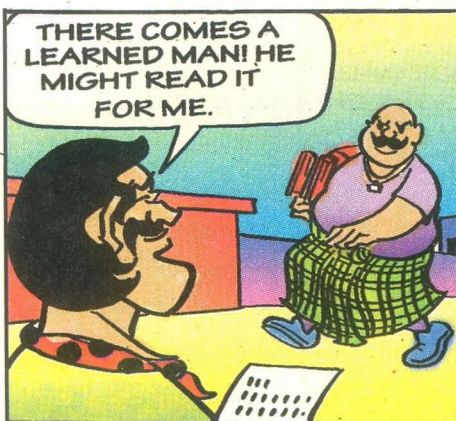
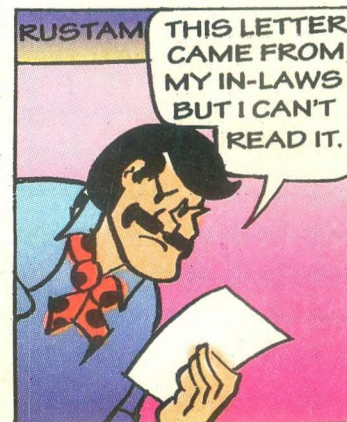
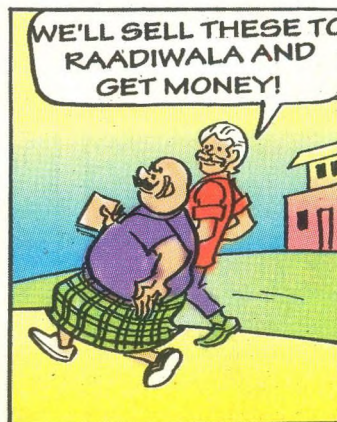
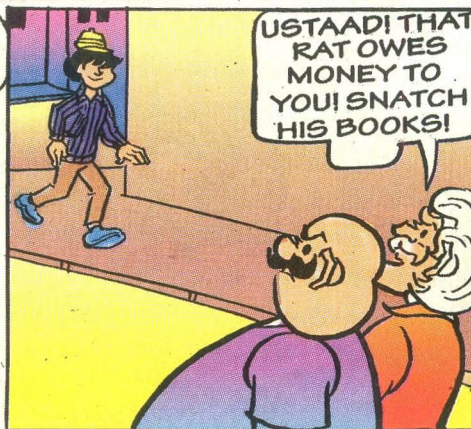
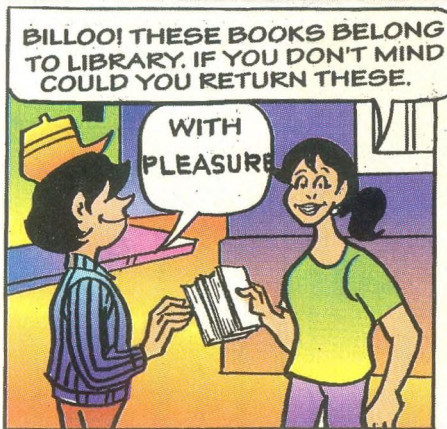
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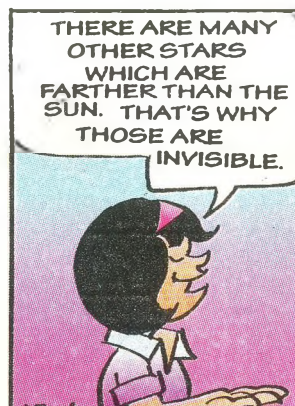
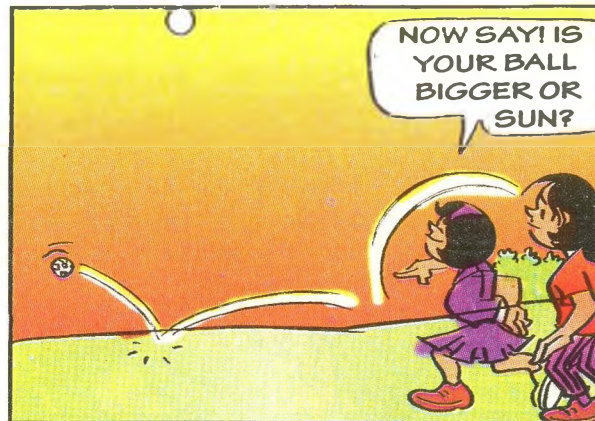
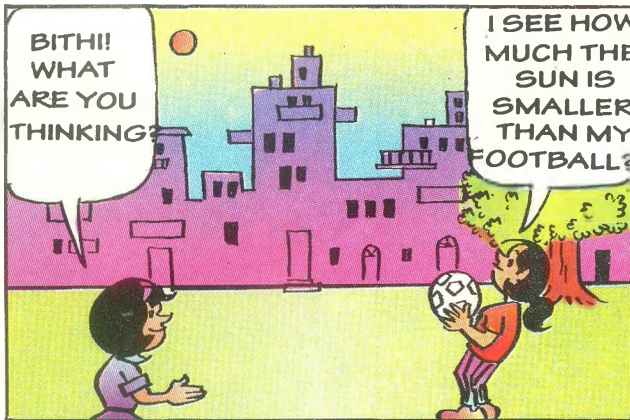
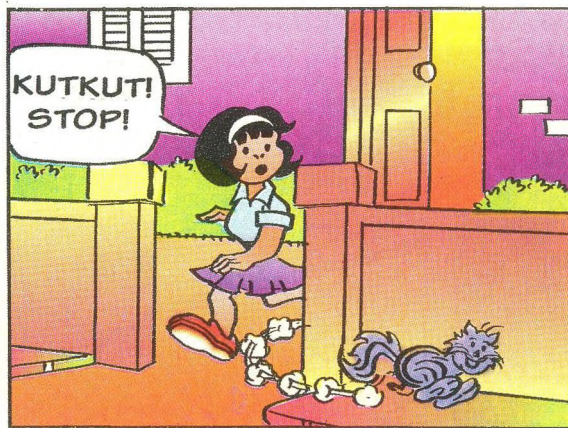
Teenage sensations
GLIDERS
PG

Some things are just right.

*M.R.P. incl. of all taxes Montage LGPG 25 CW 99





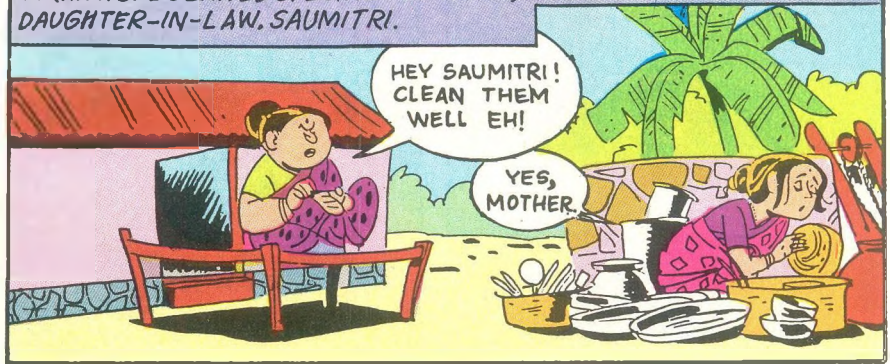




Panchatantra

The Greedy
Mother-in-Law

KUMATI, THE WIFE OF THE HEAD-MAN OF SALAGRAM VILLAGE, WAS A TYRANT. SHE DERIVED SPECIAL PLEASURE, IN TORMENTING HER SIMPLE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, SAUMITRI.



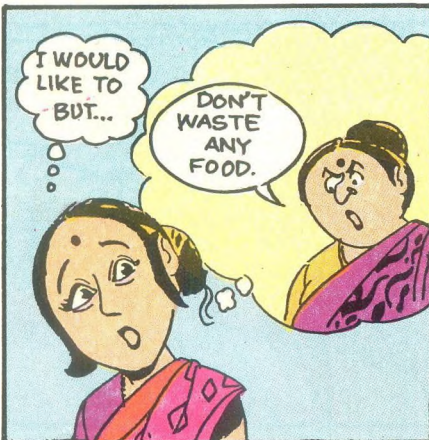
SAUMITRI SLOGGED FROM MORNING TILL NIGHT AND YET COULD NEVER PLEASE HER MOTHER-IN-LAW.

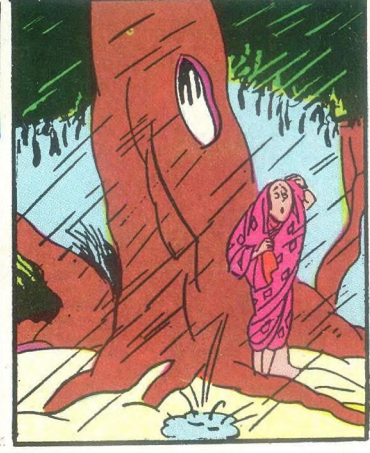
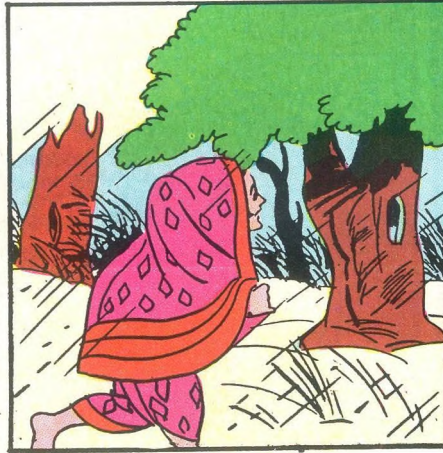
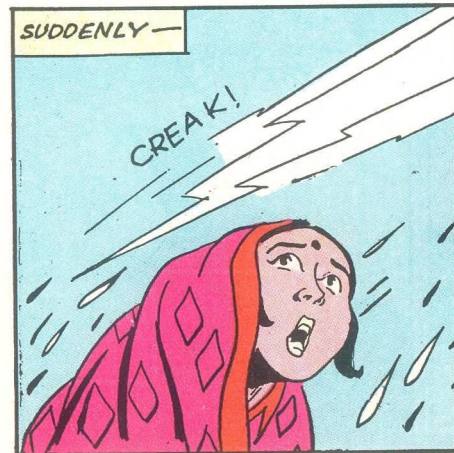
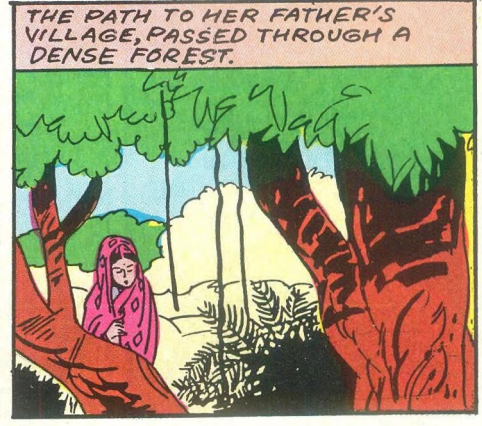
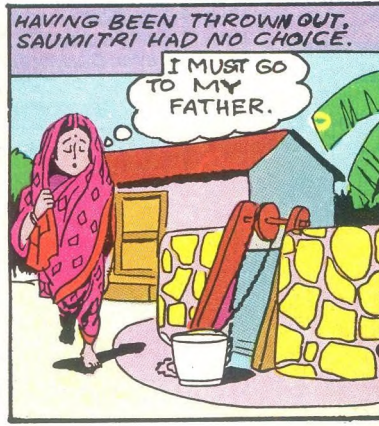


SAUMITRI IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO COOK

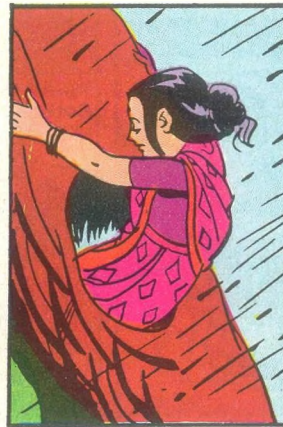
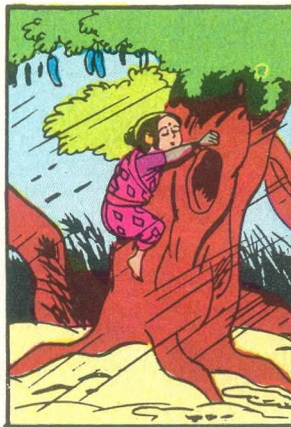


SHE OPENED THE DOOR AND SAW NOT HER MOTHER-IN-LAW, BUT A SADHU.

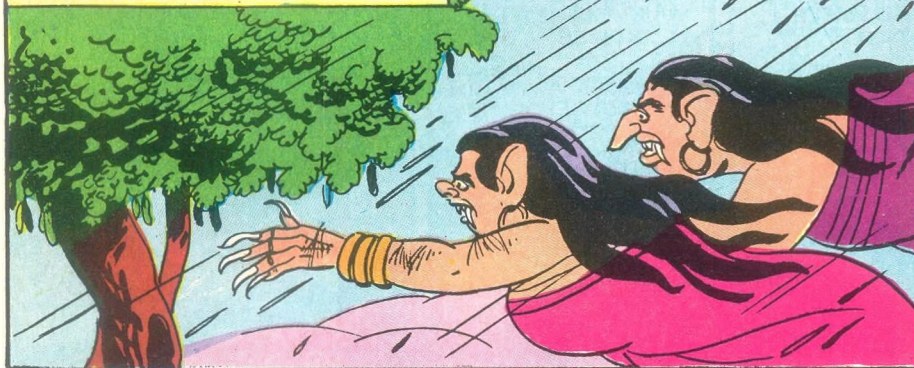




THE RAIN WAS SO HEAVY THAT THE SHELTER PROVIDED BY THE TREE BECAME INEFFECTIVE.



THE TREE WAS THE HOME OF TWO RAKSHASIS.



SAUMITRI HEAVED A SIGH OF RELIEF.

THANK GOD!
THEY ARE
GONE...



...AH...I
WILL STEP
OUT AND
STRETCH
MY
LIMBS.



WHEN SAUMITRI STEPPED OUT
ON THE BEACH—

THE SAND
GLITTERS...



IT LOOKS
LIKE...



OH, IT IS!!
IT IS SAND
OF GOLD!



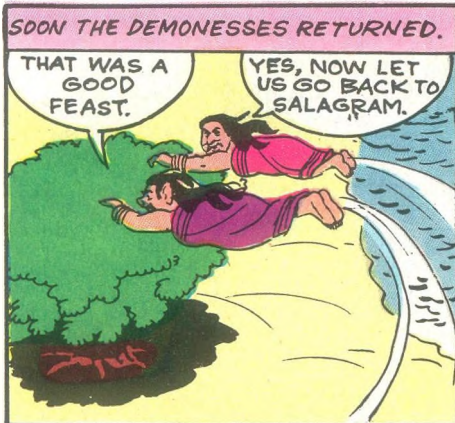
I HAVE GOT
ENOUGH GOLD
TO LAST
US FOR
TWO
GENERATIONS



SOON THE DEMONESSES RETURNED.

THAT WAS A
GOOD
FEAST.

YES, NOW LET
US GO BACK TO
SALAGRAM.



AT DAY-BREAK, THE TREE LANDED
IN THE JUNGLE
NEAR SALAGRAM.

'I AM HUNGRY
AGAIN.'

LET US
GO TO
HUNT.



WHEN THE COAST WAS
CLEAR, SAUMITRI STARTED
FOR HER HOME.

MOTHER-IN-
LAW WILL BE
HAPPY TO RECE-
IVE ALL THIS
GOLD.



THE MOMENT SAUMITRI
REACHED HOME—

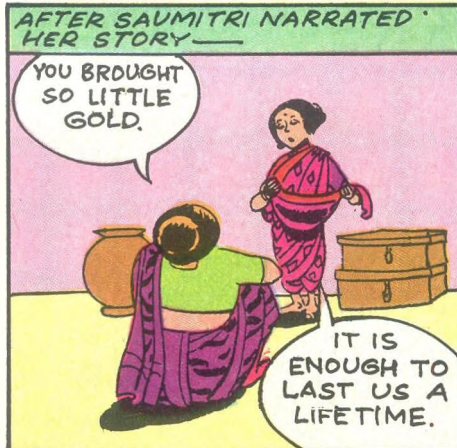
MOTHER!
LOOK WHAT
I HAVE
BROUGHT!



AFTER SAUMITRI NARRATED
HER STORY—

YOU BROUGHT
SO LITTLE
GOLD.

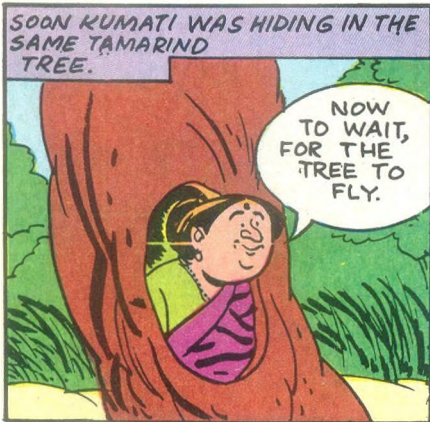
IT IS
ENOUGH TO
LAST US A
LIFETIME.



GOLD
IS NEVER
ENOUGH.

'I
COULDN'T
CARRY ANY
MORE.





THE REPENTENCE OF THE BRAHMAN

VIKRAM AGAIN REACHED THE GRAND CREMATORIUM. ONCE AGAIN HE BROUGHT DOWN BETAL FROM THE SIRAS ON TO HIS SHOULDER AND HEADED ON THE WAY LEADING HIM TO THAT YOGI. THEN BETAL SPOKE...!



YOU'RE VERY COURAGEOUS VIKRAM! BUT EQUALLY ADAMANT... BUT I STILL SAY ALL OF YOUR THESE EFFORTS SHALL BE OF NO USE. THE YOGI, FOR WHOM YOU'RE TAKING ALL THESE PAINS, WILL DECEIVE YOU...!



THAT I'D SEE LATER... AT THE MOMENT MY ONLY AIM IS TO DELIVER YOU TO THAT YOGI'S CUSTODY.



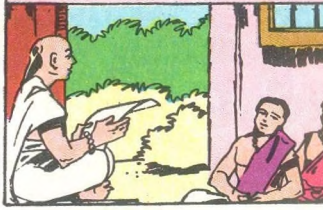
FOR THAT YOU'RE TAKING ME ALONG ALREADY! BUT I'M SORRY TO SEE YOU TAKING SUCH RISKS AND DOING ALL THIS. SO, TO LESSEN YOUR BURDEN, I NOW RECITE TO YOU ONE SOTRY... BUT BEWARE... YOU'VE TO KEEP YOUR SILENCE, OTHERWISE I'D GO BACK TO THE PLACE YOU'RE BRINGING ME HERE FROM.



THEN BETAL RECITED THIS STORY TO VIKRAM! LONG LONG AGO THERE LIVED A BRAHMAN IN THE MAGADH KINGDOM'S VILLAGE NAMED SHRANGVERPUR. HIS NAME WAS KUBERDUTT.



KUBERDUTT HAD RECEIVED HIS EDUCATION IN KASHI. HE WAS VERSED IN LOT OF SHASTRAS AND KNEW MANY MANTRAS. BUT IN THAT SMALL VILLAGE, THERE WAS NO ONE TO RECOGNISE HIS ERUDITION. HENCE HE WAS PASSING LIFE IN UTTER PENURY. HE RAN A SMALL SCHOOL, WHERE HE TOUGHT A FEW CHILDREN.



AMONG HIS DISCIPLES WAS ONE ORPHAN BOY NAMED DEVDUTT. AT TIMES KUBERDUTT MADE THAT BOY LIVE WITH HIM ONLY. THE OBEDIENT DEVDUTT CONSIDERED HIS GURU TO BE HIS FATHER AND RELIGIOUSLY FOLLOWED HIS EVERY COMMAND. ONE DAY...

DEV DUTT... SON! NOW IT'S BECOMING EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO STAY-PUT IN THIS VILLAGE. THE MONEY RECEIVED FROM THE DISCIPLES AS FEES'S THROUGHOLY INADEQUATE. IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO PROVIDE US TWO SQUARE MEALS...!



WHY SHOULDN'T WE GO TO KASHI... IT'S A BIG CITY... AND THERE I'M BOUND TO GET PERSONS RECOGNISING MY TALENT.



AS YOU PLEASE, GURUDEVA!



WHO'S MINE HERE, GURUDEVA? MY PARENTS ARE DEAD. HAD YOU NOT GIVEN ME SHELTER... I'D HAVE BEEN BEGGING ON THE STREETS I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACCOMPANY ME OR'D PREFER TO STAY HERE?

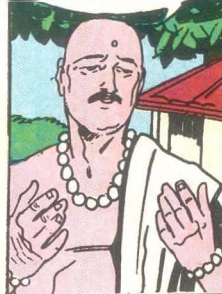


NEXT DAY MORNING THE GURU AND DISCIPLE LEFT FOR KASHI, WITH A VERY LITTLE LUGGAGE. THE DISCIPLE ASKED ON THE WAY.

GURU JI, YOU'VE LEFT THE VILLAGE, BUT DID YOU DECIDE WHERE WE'D BE STAYING IN KASHI?



I'VE HEARD THAT THE RULER OF KASHI, PRATAP SINGH IS A VIRTUOUS MAN... HE RESPECTS THE SCHOLERS. WE'D GO TO HIM.



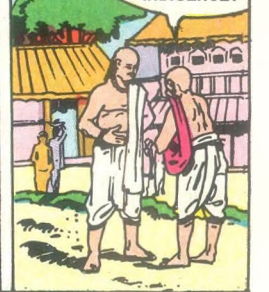
AND SUPPOSE HE DOESN'T PAY DUE REGARDS TO YOUR ERUDITION... THEN?



SHUN YOUR PESSIMISTIC OUTLOOK, SON. I'M CONFIDENT THAT KASHI'S RULER SHALL ACCORD US A WARM WELCOME. I KNOW A MANTRA, WHICH IF CHANTED PROPERLY CAN CAUSE EVEN THE RAIN OF GEMS!



RAIN OF GEMS!? SOMETHING VERY STRANGE... THEN WHY YOU WERE PASSING YOUR DAYS IN UTTER INDIGENCE?



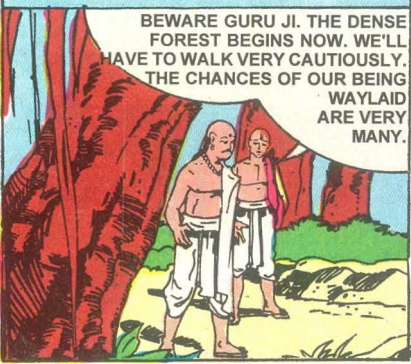
YOU'RE VERY CURIOUS, SON! LISTEN... I CAN USE THAT MANTRA ONLY FOR OTHER'S BENEFIT. IF AT ALL, PROPELLED BY GREED I USE THAT MANTRA FOR SELFISH END, I'M LIKELY TO DIE INSTANT DEATH.



THEN YOU'RE ACTING VERY WISELY. YOU'VE YOURSELF TOLD ME THAT GREED IS A VERY GREAT VICE... A MAN SHOULDN'T BE GREEDY AT ALL.



THUS THE GURU-DISCIPLE CONTINUED TO TALK TILL THEY LEFT THE VILLAGE'S LIMITS AND ENTERED THE JUNGLE PREMISES.

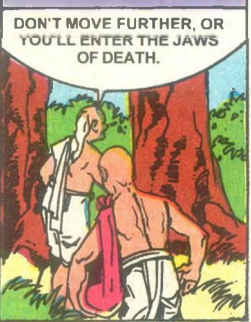


BEWARE GURU JI. THE DENSE FOREST BEGINS NOW. WE'LL HAVE TO WALK VERY CAUTIOUSLY. THE CHANCES OF OUR BEING WAYLAIED ARE VERY MANY.

WHAT DO WE HAVE SON! SO THAT THE LOOTERS MAY WAYLAI US? YES, WE SHALL BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE DEADLY VILIENT BEASTS... SO WALK CAUTIOUSLY.

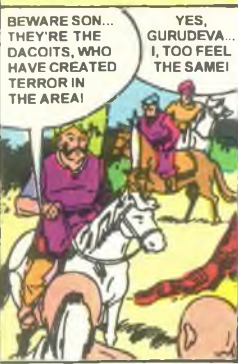


BOTH OF THEM MOVED AHEAD VERY CAUTIOUSLY. THEN BEGAN THE VERY THICK STRETCH OF THE JUNGLE... SUDDENLY HEARING A HARSH VOICE, BOTH OF THEM WERE FRIGHTENED.



DON'T MOVE FURTHER, OR YOU'LL ENTER THE JAWS OF DEATH.

BOTH OF THEM LOOKED BEWILDERED EVERY SIDE AND IMMEDIATELY A ROBUST DARK COMPLEXIONED MAN APPEARED BEFORE THEM BRANDISHING THE SWORD THEN MANY HORSE RIDING PERSON SURROUNDED THEM. KUBERDUTT SAID IN A WHISPERING TONE...



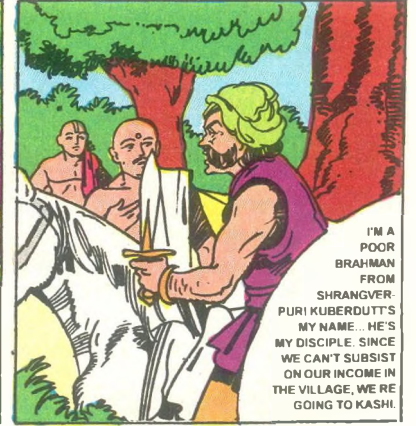
BEWARE SON... THEY'RE THE DACOITS, WHO HAVE CREATED TERROR IN THE AREA!

YES, GURUDEVA... I, TOO FEEL THE SAME!

THE DACOIT CHIEF THUNDERED.



WHO'RE YOU AND WHERE'RE YOU GOING?



I'M A POOR BRAHMAN FROM SHRANGVER-PURI KUBERDUTT'S MY NAME... HE'S MY DISCIPLE. SINCE WE CAN'T SUBSIST ON OUR INCOME IN THE VILLAGE, WE'RE GOING TO KASHI.

WHERE YOU'D STAY IN KASHI?



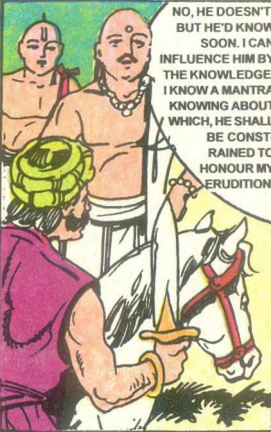
AT KING PRATAP SINGH'S PALACE!



DOES THE KING KNOWS YOU?



NO, HE DOESN'T! BUT HE'D KNOW SOON. I CAN INFLUENCE HIM BY THE KNOWLEDGE. I KNOW A MANTRA KNOWING ABOUT WHICH, HE SHALL BE CONSTRAINED TO HONOUR MY ERUDITION.



WHAT YOU HAVE AT THE MOMENT?



I'M A POOR MAN... WE'VE NOTHING BARRING A PACKET OF FOOD AND A FEW RAGS TO COVER OUR BODY. IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN HAVE THIS, TOO!



WHAT'D I DO WITH BREAD AND RAGS...? I WANT WEALTH AND MONEY!!

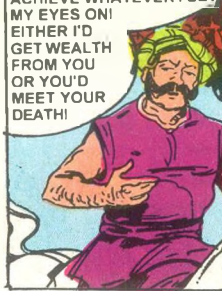


THAT WE DON'T HAVE, BROTHER!



THE DACOIT HALF CLOSED HIS EYES AND THOUGHT SERIOUSLY FOR A MINUTE. THEN HE SAID...!

LISTEN, BRAHMAN... I'M LAKHAN SINGH. I ALWAYS ACHIEVE WHATEVER I SET MY EYES ON! EITHER I'D GET WEALTH FROM YOU OR YOU'D MEET YOUR DEATH!



DEAR LAKHAN! I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT I'VE NOTHING AND WHATEVER'S THERE, I'M OFFERING YOU VOLUNTARILY. WHY STILL YOU WANT TO KILL ME?



YOU'RE A SCHOLAR AND GOING TO THE RULER OF KASHI... YOU'LL HAVE TO BRING ONE THOUSAND GOLD COINS FOR ME FROM THE KING.



ONE THOUSAND GOLD COINS!? MY... MY...! SO MUCH OF MONEY. I'VE NEVER DREAMT OF MOREOVER... WHY SHOULD THE KING GIVE ME SO MUCH OF WEALTH WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING ABOUT MY KNOWLEDGE! FIRST OF ALL, I'VE TO GO BEFORE HIM AND PROVE MY CLAIM.



CERTAINLY NOT! NOW YOU'D NOT EVEN BUDGE FROM THIS PLACE OR ELSE I'D SLAY YOU. I TELL YOU A TRICK... YOU SEND YOUR DISCIPLE TO THE KING AND NOT TILL YOU GET ME A THOUSAND GOLD COINS, THAT I'D RELEASE YOU.



KUBERDUTT LOOKED HELPLESSLY TO HIS DISCIPLE.



GO SON AND DO AS THEY ORDER YOU. OTHERWISE THEY'D MURDER ME.

BUT GURU JI, WILL THE KING GIVE ME SUCH A HUGE WEALTH?



IF YOU RECITE HIM TRAVAILS AND TENSIONS OF THE JOURENY, LITERALLY WET WITH TEARS... MAY BE, THE RULER OF KASHI'D READY TO GIVE YOU THE SAID AMOUNT TO SAVE THE LIFE OF A SCHOLAR BRAHMAN...! NOW GO QUICKLY OR ELSE YOUR GURU SHALL DIE.



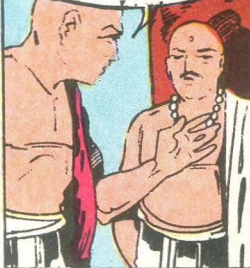
ALL RIGHT... I GO... BUT LET ME TALK TO MY GURU IN PRIVATE FOR A MOMENT...!

ALL RIGHT! YOU MAY DO IT!



DEVDUIT WHISPERED IN HIS GURU'S EARS.

I'M GOING GURUDEVA! BUT I'M NOT HOPEFUL OF GETTING THE COINS FROM THE KING... YOU BE CAUTIOUS AND DON'T DISCLOSE THAT MANTRA TO THESE DACOITS OR THEY'D MURDER YOU FOR SURE!



GURU AGREED WITH HIM! DEVDUIT TOOK A HORSE FROM THE DACOITS AND GALOPED TO KASHI!



PT. KUBERDUTT WAS TIED TO A STURDY TREE AND MANY DACOITS STOOD AS GUARD AROUND HIM.

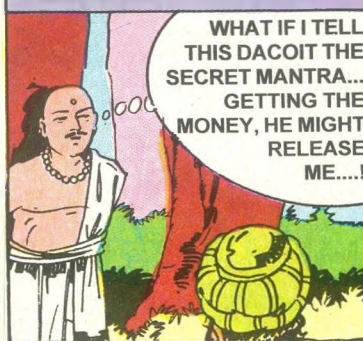


TIED TO A TREE AND WITHOUT WATER OR FOOD FOR HOURS, THE BRAHMAN'S BODY BEGAN TO ACHE EXCRUCIATINGLY. HE REQUESTED WATER FROM THE DACOITS... BUT DACOIT LAKHAN SINGH REFUSED CONTEMPTUOUSLY.



NOT TILL YOUR DISCIPLE BRINGS THE THOUSAND GOLD COIN, THAT YOU'D BE OFFERED ANY WATER OR FOOD! NOW ONLY PRAY TO GOD TO BRING YOUR DISCIPLE HERE PRONTO, TO AFFECT YOUR RELEASE.

THE FULL NEXT DAY ELAPSED, BUT DEVDUIT DIDN'T RETURN... WHEN HIS PAIN GREW UNBEARABLE, KUBERDUTT FELL INTO SERIOUS THOUGHT.



WHAT IF I TELL THIS DACOIT THE SECRET MANTRA... GETTING THE MONEY, HE MIGHT RELEASE ME...!

LISTEN... BROTHER! I CAN PRODUCE THE REQUIRED AMOUNT OF MONEY HERE ONLY.



THEN WHY YOU DELAY? BY DELAYING IT, YOU'RE TORTURING YOURSELF AND TROUBLING US ALSO.

THEN FREE ME... I'D CHANT A MANTRA AT THE CONCLUSION OF WHICH, THE GEM'D RAIN FROM THE SKIES! THEN YOU TAKE THE GEMS AND SET ME FREE!





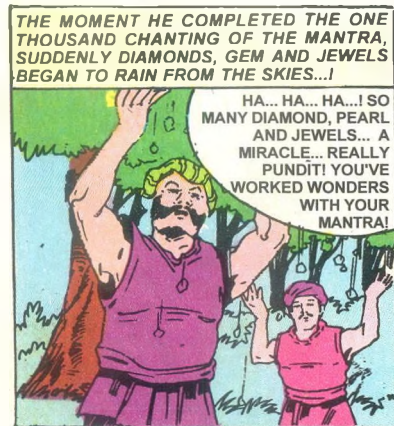
GEMS RAINING FROM THE SKIES! IT'S UNHEARD OF NOR EVER WITNESSED! LET YOU'RE MAKING THIS STORY TO SAVE YOUR LIFE?



THIS'S NEITHER A STORY NOR A PLAY... BUT A REALITY! EVEN OTHERWISE I'M IN YOUR CAPTIVITY. IF WHAT I CLAIM DOESN'T TAKE PLACE, YOU MAY TREAT ME WHATEVER WAY YOU LIKE!

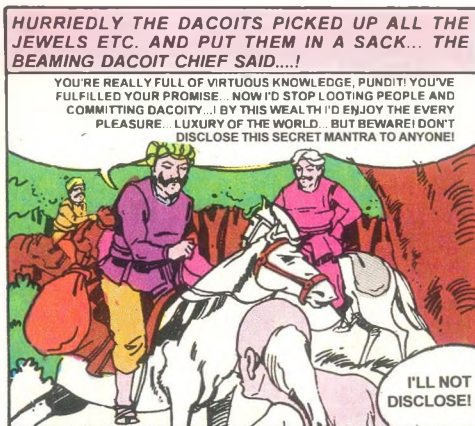


THE DACOIT CHIEF, OPENED UP THE ROPES BINDING THE BRAHMAN...! WHEN FREE... THE BRAHMAN TOOK BATH IN THE NEARBY RIVER AND SITTING BENEATH A TREE, BEGAN TO CHANT THAT MANTRA.



THE MOMENT HE COMPLETED THE ONE THOUSAND CHANTING OF THE MANTRA, SUDDENLY DIAMONDS, GEM AND JEWELS BEGAN TO RAIN FROM THE SKIES...!

HA... HA... HA...! SO MANY DIAMOND, PEARL AND JEWELS... A MIRACLE... REALLY PUNDIT! YOU'VE WORKED WONDERS WITH YOUR MANTRA!



HURRIEDLY THE DACOITS PICKED UP ALL THE JEWELS ETC. AND PUT THEM IN A SACK... THE BEAMING DACOIT CHIEF SAID...!

YOU'RE REALLY FULL OF VIRTUOUS KNOWLEDGE, PUNDIT! YOU'VE FULFILLED YOUR PROMISE... NOW I'D STOP LOOTING PEOPLE AND COMMITTING DACOITY...! BY THIS WEALTH I'D ENJOY THE EVERY PLEASURE... LUXURY OF THE WORLD... BUT BEWARE! DON'T DISCLOSE THIS SECRET MANTRA TO ANYONE!



THE MOMENT THE PUNDIT WAS ABOUT TO GO, THEY HEARD THE SOUND OF NEIGHING AND APPROACHING HOOFES OF SOME HORSES. HE WAS FRIEGHENED... DACOIT LAKHAN SINGH AND HIS MEN BEGAN TO HEARD THE APPROACHING HORSE!

A NEW PROBLEM IN THE OFFING!



IT WAS REALLY THE NEW PROBLEM... THE UNCROWNED KING OF THE JUNGLE, DACOIT DILER SINGH CAME WITH HIS FULL GANG AND STOOD BEFORE THEM! DILER SINGH THUNDERED.

HANDS UP! IF ANYONE OF YOU MAKE A MOVE, MY MEN'D HACK HIM OFF TO PIECES! NOW GIVE ME WHATEVER YOU ALL HAVE!

DACOIT LAKHAN SINGH WAS NERVOUS... HIS FACE LOST IT'S COLOUR... HE SAID IN A GENTLE TONE...!



LISTEN... MR. DILER SINGH! YOU AND I ARE BOTH DACOITS. SINCE WE FOLLOW THE SAME PROFESSION... WE MUST NOT HAVE ENMITY BETWEEN US.



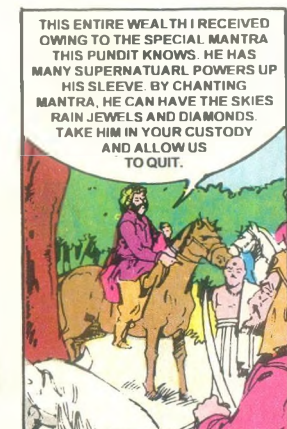
I'M THE RENOWNED DACOIT OF THE AREA AND PEOPLE GREATLY FEAR ME... WHILE YOU COMMIT DACOITY ONLY IN THIS JUNGLE! HENCE I COMMAND MORE FEAR THAN YOU DO... NOW I ORDER YOU TO GIVE ME WHATEVER YOU POSSESS.



YOU CAN EASILY GET MUCH MORE THAN THE TOTAL WEALTH WE POSSESS!



HOW?



THIS ENTIRE WEALTH I RECEIVED OWING TO THE SPECIAL MANTRA THIS PUNDIT KNOWS. HE HAS MANY SUPERNATURAL POWERS UP HIS SLEEVE. BY CHANTING MANTRA, HE CAN HAVE THE SKIES RAIN JEWELS AND DIAMONDS. TAKE HIM IN YOUR CUSTODY AND ALLOW US TO QUIT.



LAKHAN'S INFORMATION MADE DILER'S EYE GLEAM WITH DELIGHT. BUT PUNDIT KUBERDUTT SHUDDERED IN FRIGHT.

NO... NO... LET ME GO!



BELEIVE ME... I DONT KNOW ANY MANTRA! HE IS TELLING A LIE! PLEASE RELEASE ME!



DILER'S GESTURE PERMITTED LAKHAN AND HIS GANG TO GO AWAY. THEN MENACINGLY HE TURNED TOWARDS THE PUNDIT.

NOW AND HERE YOU SHALL GET ME THE JEWELS AND DIAMONDS. IMMEDIATELY AT THIS MOMENT!



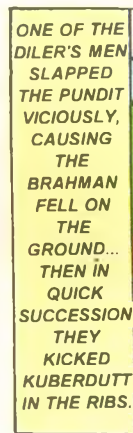
BUT I CAN'T DO THIS, DACOIT CHIEF BY CHANTING THE MANTRA, I CAN HAVE THIS RAIN OF DIAMONDS AND GEMS ONLY ONCE IN A YEAR. NOW YOU'D HAVE TO WAIT FOR A FULL YEAR FOR THAT.



ONE YEAR! I CAN'T WAIT EVEN FOR AN HOUR IF YOU OFFER FLIMSY EXCUSES. THEN I'D LEAVE YOU IN SUCH A CONDITION AS TO MAKE YOUR SEVEN GENERATIONS SHUDDER IN FEAR OF DAKU DILER SINGH. UNDERSTAND? NOW BEGIN THE CHANTING OF THE MANTRA.



NO... NO... IT'S NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME... I CAN'T DO THIS.



ONE OF THE DILER'S MEN SLAPPED THE PUNDIT VICIOUSLY, CAUSING THE BRAHMAN FELL ON THE GROUND... THEN IN QUICK SUCCESSION THEY KICKED KUBERDUTT IN THE RIBS.



SPEAK OUT... WOULD YOU HAVE THE RAIN OF DIAMONDS FOR ME OR NOT!

NO... NO... NO... NO...!



THEN PUNDIT WAS SUBJECTED TO SEVERE TORTURE. THEY BEGAN TO KICK HIM MERCILESSLY... BUT PUNDIT CONTINUED TO REPEAT...

PLEASE DON'T BEAT ME, BROTHERS. HONESTLY I SAY, I CAN HAVE THE RAIN OF DIAMONDS ONLY ONCE IN A YEAR BY MY MANTRA... PLEASE...!



YOU CHEAT AND A LIE...! YOU NINCOMPOOP OF A PUNDIT... EITHER RAIN JEWELS AND DIAMONDS FOR ME OR FACE DEATH.



DILER SINGH AND HIS MEN THRASHED THE PUNDIT SO CRUELLY, THAT HE EXPIRED... BUT BEFORE DYING, HIS EYES GLOWED WITH A MYSTERIOUS GLEAM AND HE MUTTERED...

DACOIT DILER SINGH! YOU'LL HAVE TO DIE, TOO! FOR THE WEALTH YOU'RE KILLING ME FOR... THAT WEALTH'D NOT ONLY RUIN YOU, BUT YOUR ENTIRE GANG ALSO... HI... HICCH...!



AND THE PUNDIT DIED!

ARRE... HE'S REALLY DEAD! NOW WHO I'D GET THE WEALTH FROM?

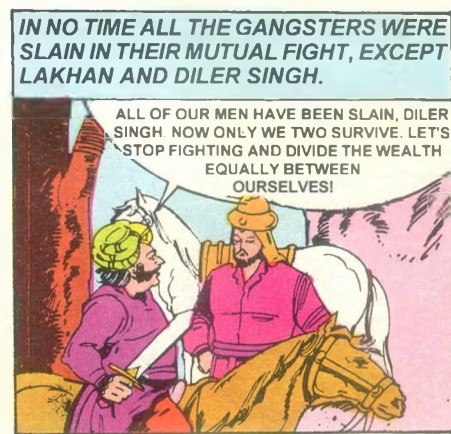


THEN AFTER THINKING FOR A WHILE...!

CHASE LAKHAN SINGH AND HIS GANG. WE'D GET FROM HIM THE DIAMONDS AND GEMS HE RECEIVED FROM THE MIRALCE RAIN BY THE PUNDIT'S MANTRA.

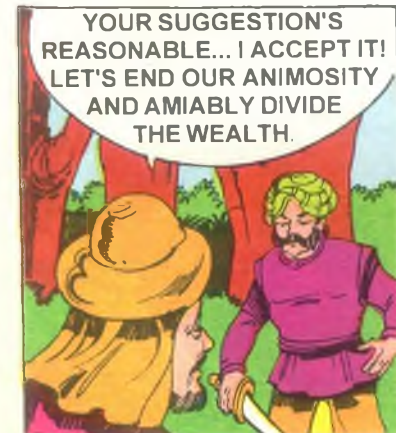


AND IN A TRICE, THEY SURROUNDED THE GANG OF LAKHAN SINGH... A FIERCE FIGHTING COMMENCED.



IN NO TIME ALL THE GANGSTERS WERE SLAIN IN THEIR MUTUAL FIGHT, EXCEPT LAKHAN AND DILER SINGH.

ALL OF OUR MEN HAVE BEEN SLAIN, DILER SINGH. NOW ONLY WE TWO SURVIVE. LET'S STOP FIGHTING AND DIVIDE THE WEALTH EQUALLY BETWEEN OURSELVES!



YOUR SUGGESTION'S REASONABLE... I ACCEPT IT! LET'S END OUR ANIMOSITY AND AMIABLY DIVIDE THE WEALTH.



THROWING AWAY THEIR SWORDS, THEY EMBRACED EACH OTHER... THEN SITTING BENEATH A TREE, THEY BEGAN TO BROOD...!

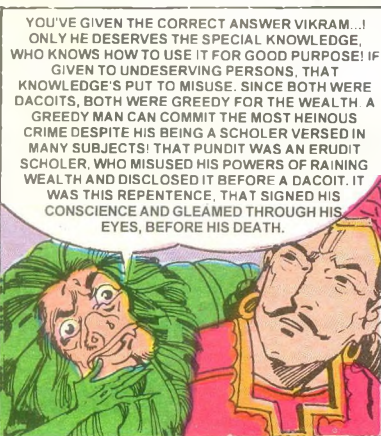
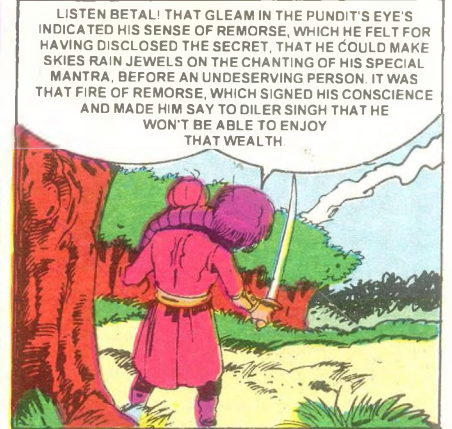
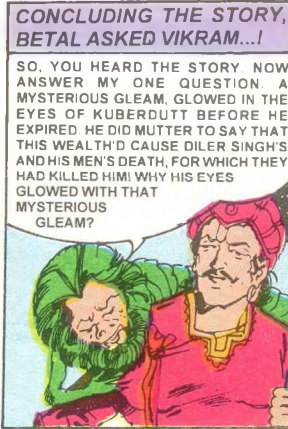
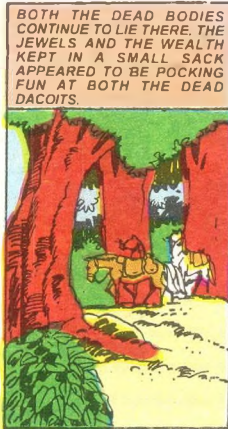
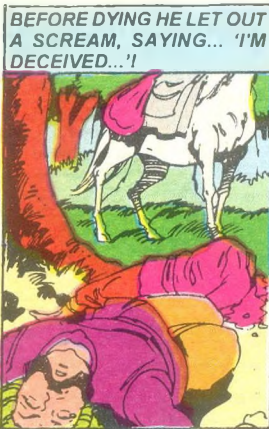
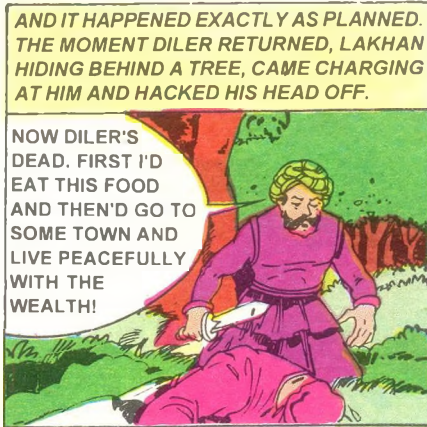
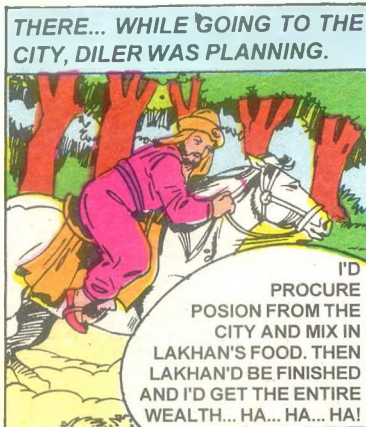
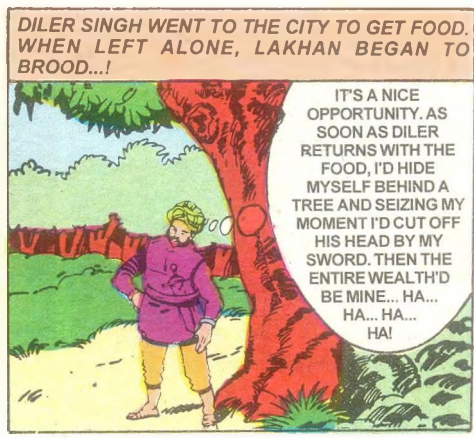
NOW SINCE WE'RE FRIENDS, WE MUST ARRANGE OUR FOOD AND EAT IT TOGETHER... I'M AWFULLY HUNGRY...!



I'M ALSO FAMISHED. LET'S FILL OUR BELLYS FIRST AND THEN PLAN FOR FUTURE.

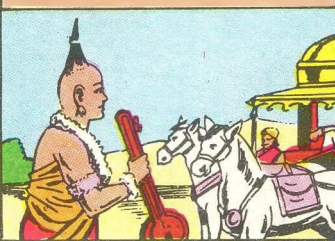


BUT FOOD IS NOT AVAILABLE HERE. FOR THIS, ONE OF US MUST GO TO THE CITY.



RAM- HANUMAN BATTLE

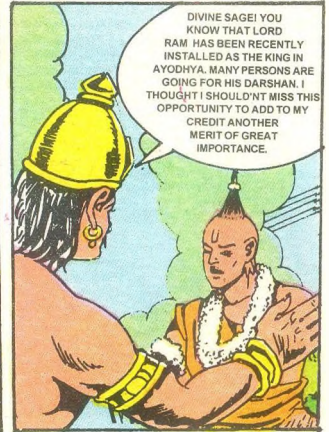
AFTER SUFFERING EXILE FOR FOURTEEN YEARS, WHEN RAM-LAKSHMAN AND SITA RETURNED TO AYODHYA WITH HANUMAN, THEY WERE ACCORDED A GRAND AND AFFECTIONATE WELCOME. BHARAT-SHATRUGHAN AND THE SUBJECTS WERE SUPREMELY DELIGHTED TO HAVE THEM BACK. THEN RAM'S CORONATION TOOK PLACE. MANY KINGS AND PRINCES POURED IN AYODHYA TO HAVE KING RAM'S DARSHAN. ONE OF THEM WAS THE RULER OF KASHI GOING TO PAY HIS OBEISANCE TO RAM TOGETHER WITH HIS RETINUE. THE RULER OF KASHI MET SAGE NARAD ON THE WAY. HE BOWED RESPECTFULLY TO THE SAGE. AFTER BLESSING THE KING NARAD ENQUIRED.



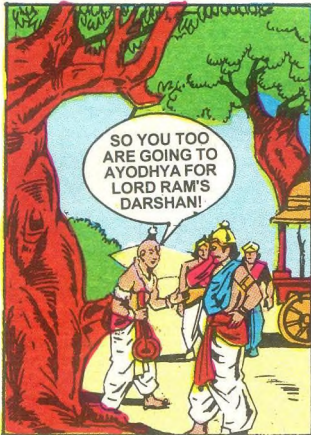
NARAYAN... NARAYAN...
O' RULER OF KASHI!
WHERE ARE YOU
GOING WITH YOUR
FULL RETINUE?



DIVINE SAGE! YOU
KNOW THAT LORD
RAM HAS BEEN RECENTLY
INSTALLED AS THE KING IN
AYODHYA. MANY PERSONS ARE
GOING FOR HIS DARSHAN. I
THOUGHT I SHOULD MISS THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO ADD TO MY
CREDIT ANOTHER
MERIT OF GREAT
IMPORTANCE.



SO YOU TOO
ARE GOING TO
AYODHYA FOR
LORD RAM'S
DARSHAN!



YES,
DIVINE
SAGE!



WILL YOU
FOLLOW MY
ONE ADVICE, O'
KING?



ORDER
ME, SIR!



IN RAM'S COURT,
PAY REGARD TO
EVERYONE, EXCEPT
ONE PERSON...
NEGLECT HIM
TOTALLY!



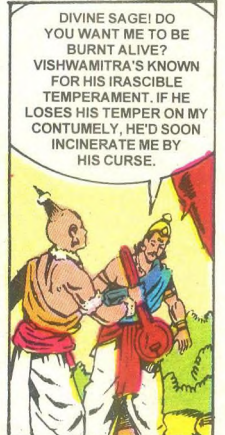
WHO I
SHOULD
NEGLECT?



SAGE
VISHWA-
MITRA!



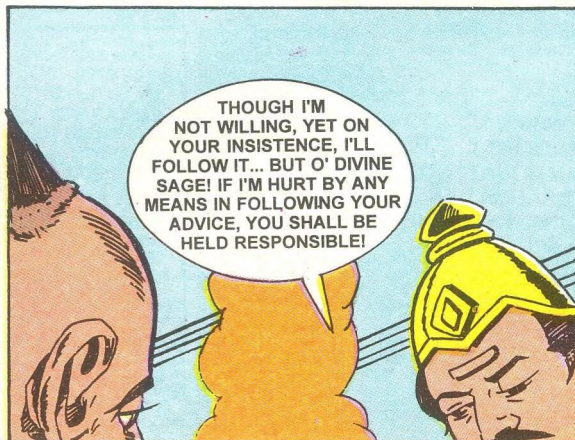
DIVINE SAGE! DO
YOU WANT ME TO BE
BURN'T ALIVE?
VISHWAMITRA'S KNOWN
FOR HIS IRASCIBLE
TEMPERAMENT. IF HE
LOSES HIS TEMPER ON MY
CONTUMELY, HE'D SOON
INCINERATE ME BY
HIS CURSE.



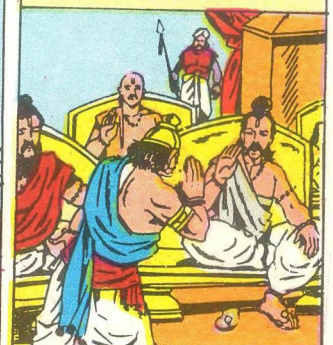
NOTHING OF THE SORT
SHALL TAKE PLACE.
JUST HEED MY ADVICE
AND NEGLECT
HIM ONCE.



THOUGH I'M
NOT WILLING, YET ON
YOUR INSISTENCE, I'LL
FOLLOW IT... BUT O' DIVINE
SAGE! IF I'M HURT BY ANY
MEANS IN FOLLOWING YOUR
ADVICE, YOU SHALL BE
HELD RESPONSIBLE!



HAVING BEFUDDLED THE KASHI-RULER,
DIVINE SAGE NARAD LEFT. AFTER REACHING
AYODHYA, THE KING PAID HIS REGARD TO
THE SEERS AND MAJORITY OF SAGES AND
THEN PROCEEDED TOWARDS RAM.



HE NEITHER LOOKED AT THE SAGE VISHWAMITRA, NOR GREETED HIM AND WENT PAST HIM STRAIGHT. VISHWAMITRA BLEW UP.

THIS KASHI'S RULER HAS GONE GREATLY ARROGANT IN THE VANITY OF HIS POWER. THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T GREET ME. PERHAPS HE CONSIDERS ME UNDERSERVING AS I GAINED THE ORDER OF 'MAHARSHI' (GREAT SAGE) FROM BEING A 'CHHATRIYA' (OF WARRIORCLASS)



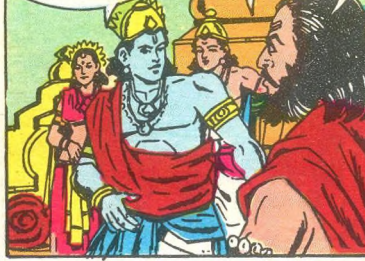
KASHIRAJ WENT TO THE GUEST PALACE AFTER PAYING HIS TRIBUTE TO LORD RAM, BUT VISHWAMITRA CONTINUED TO FUME AND WENT TO LORD RAM TO COMPLAIN.



SEEING HIS FACE FLUSHED WITH RAGE, RAM ASKED.

GURUDEV! WHY YOUR FACE'S REDDENING WITH ANGER? HAS ANYONE COMMITTED CONTUMELY AGAINST YOU?

YES, RAM! ONE OF THE KINGS PRESENT HERE HAS BITTERLY INSULTED ME!



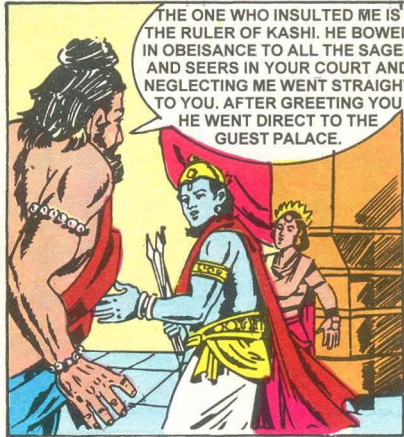
WHO'S THAT FELLOW, GURUDEV!? JUST NAME HIM. I'LL IMMEDIATELY SEND HIM TO THE GALLOWES!



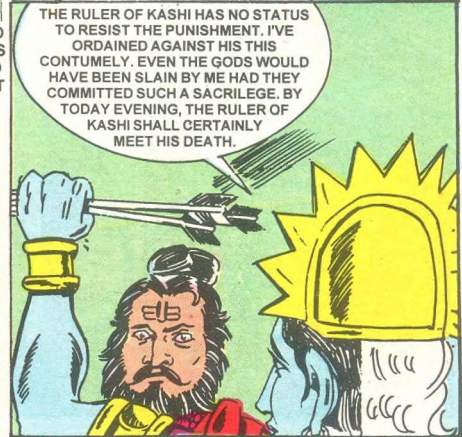
RAM TOOK OUT THREE ARROWS FROM HIS QUIVER AND DISPLAYING THEM TO VISHWAMITRA SAID...!



PLEASE JUST NAME HIM. GURUDEV! MY THESE THREE ARROWS SHALL TAKE HIM TO DEATH BEFORE THE EVENING.



THE ONE WHO INSULTED ME IS THE RULER OF KASHI. HE BOWED IN OBEISANCE TO ALL THE SAGES AND SEERS IN YOUR COURT AND NEGLECTING ME WENT STRAIGHT TO YOU. AFTER GREETING YOU HE WENT DIRECT TO THE GUEST PALACE.



THE RULER OF KASHI HAS NO STATUS TO RESIST THE PUNISHMENT. I'VE ORDAINED AGAINST HIS THIS CONTUMELY. EVEN THE GODS WOULD HAVE BEEN SLAIN BY ME HAD THEY COMMITTED SUCH A SACRILEGE. BY TODAY EVENING, THE RULER OF KASHI SHALL CERTAINLY MEET HIS DEATH.

IN A SPLIT OF A SECOND, THE NEWS SPREAD IN THE ENTIRE AYODHYA CITY. PEOPLE SHUDDERED IN THE DREAD OF THE PUNISHMENT. IT WAS THE BURNING TOPIC OF THE DAY.

KASHI-RULER'S END IS NEAR NOW.

NO ONE CAN PROTECT HIM FROM THE KEEN ARROWS OF LORD RAM.

KASHIRAJ SHOULD'NT HAVE BEHAVED THIS WAY, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE KNEW THE PROFOUND RESPECT RAM HAD FOR HIS TEACHER VISHWAMITRA. HOW COULD HE DO THIS DELIBERATELY?

NOW HE'LL HAVE TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.



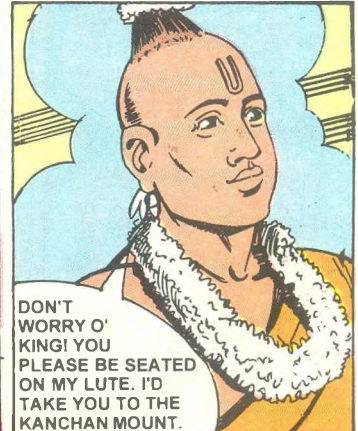
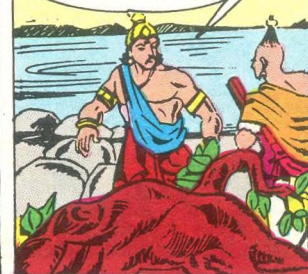
WHEN KASHIRAJ HEARD ABOUT IT, IN UTTER PANIC HE RAN TOWARDS THE SARAYU RIVER.

I DID GRAVE WRONG TO HAVE FOLLOWED NARAD'S ADVICE. NOW WHERE SHOULD I FIND HIM? IF I'M DESTINED TO DIE AT RAM'S HANDS, WHY SHOULD'NT I MEET MY DEATH AMIDST THE WATERS OF THE RIVER SARAYU?



KASHIRAJ WAS STILL AT THE BANK OF SARAYU, WHEN NARAD REACHED THERE. KASHIRAJ GIVE VENT TO HIS ANGER.

O' DIVINE SAGE! I DID VERY WRONG TO HAVE FOLLOWED YOUR ADVICE. NOW I'LL HAVE TO LOSE MY LIFE. KINDLY SUGGEST ME SOME RUSE TO SAVE MY LIFE.



DON'T WORRY O' KING! YOU PLEASE BE SEATED ON MY LUTE. I'D TAKE YOU TO THE KANCHAN MOUNT.



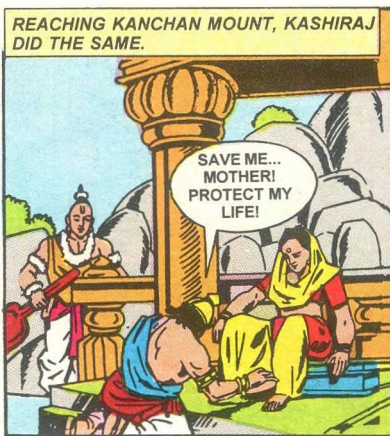
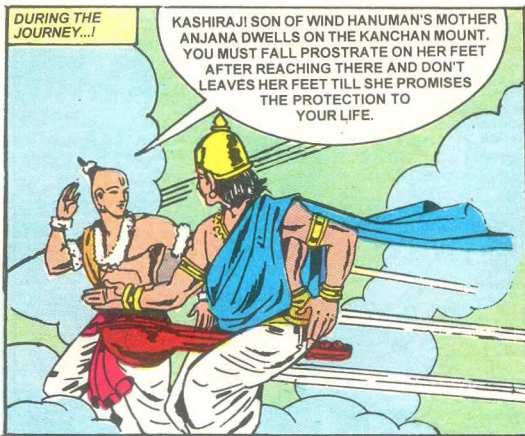
WHO'D SAVE ME AT KANCHAN MOUNT? NOT EVEN BRAHMA CAN PROTECT ME FROM THE KEEN ARROWS OF LORD RAM.



PLEASE BE SEATED ON MY LUTE. I'D EXPLAIN YOU EVERYTHING ON THE WAY.

WITH APPREHENSION IN HIS MIND AND DREAD IN HIS HEART, KASHIRAJ SAT ON NARAD'S LUTE. NARAD FLEW IN THE SKY.

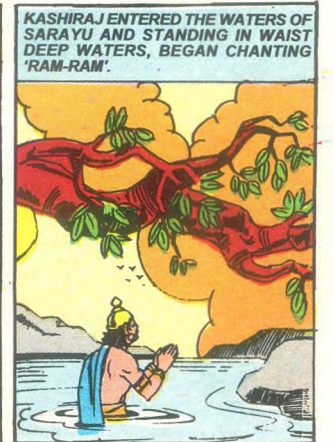
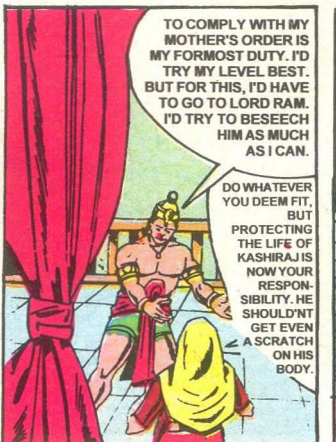




THEN KASHIRAJ NARRATED HER THE WHOLE INCIDENT. ANJANA WAS STUNNED TO HEAR IT. BUT WHAT COULD SHE NOW? SHE HAD ALREADY GIVEN HER WORD TO PROTECT THE LIFE OF KASHIRAJ. SHE THEN INVOKED HER SON HANUMAN.



FORTUNATELY THAT VERY DAY, HANUMAN HAD REACHED ON HIS OWN AT THE KANCHAN MOUNT. MANY DAYS BEFORE THIS INCIDENT, HE HAD LEFT AYODHYA WITH LORD RAM'S PERMISSION TO GO TO HIS PARENT'S PLACE. SINCE HE HAD STAYED AT KISHKINDHA FOR COUPLE OF DAYS WITH HIS FRIEND SUGRIVA, HE HAD NO IDEA ABOUT THIS HAPPENING AT AYODHYA. WHEN SUMMONED BY HIS MOTHER, HE QUICKLY REACHED BEFORE HER.



HANUMAN REACHED THE ROYAL COURT AND DID OBESANCE TO LORD RAM'S FEET. RAM WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE HANUMAN BACK. THEN HE ASKED HANUMAN AS TO WHAT HAD CAUSED HIS EARLY RETURN

YOU RETURNED RATHER EARLY, SON OF WIND! HAVE YOU MET YOUR PARENTS. ARE THEY WELL?

ALL'RE WELL! I MISSED YOU VERY MUCH THERE, SO I CAME BACK.

THEN HANUMAN STOOD SILENT, APPARENTLY HESITATING TO ASK SOMETHING LORD RAM ENQUIRED...

WANI, I U SAY SOMETHING, SON OF WIND?

YES MY LORD...!

THEN WHY DO YOU HESITATE? YOU KNOW YOU'RE AS DEARLY BELOVED TO ME AS MY OWN BROTHERS. SAY WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO WITHOUT ANY HESITATION.

THEN LORD! GIVE ME YOUR BLESSED WORD THAT I MUST PROTECT EVERYONE OF YOUR DEVOTEES, WHO'S FOUND CHANTING YOUR NAME.

WHY THIS SPECIAL REQUEST HANUMAN? THIS RIGHT YOU ALREADY HAVE! STILL I GIVE YOU MY WORD THAT UNDER YOUR PROTECTION, EVEN DEATH CAN'T TOUCH ANYONE OF MY DEVOTEES.

THAT'S ALL LORD! I'M REASSURED NOW. MY WORRY IS OVER.

HANUMAN REACHED SARAYU AND WITH HIS MACE IN HIS HAND HE STOOD GUARDING THE LIFE OF KASHIRAJ. THE NEWS SPREAD LIKE WILD FIRE THAT HE WHO WAS LIKELY TO BE KILLED BY LORD RAM BY EVENING WAS NOW BEING PROTECTED BY HANUMAN HIMSELF!

WHAT SHALL HAPPEN NOW?

A BATTLE BETWEEN THE MASTER AND THE SERVANT!

IT'S A SERIOUS PROBLEM CONFRONTING LORD RAM. ON ONE SIDE HIS PLEDGE AND ITS REDEMPTION AND ON THE OTHER HIS MOST LOYAL SERVANT!

RAM REACHED THE BANK OF SARAYU ALONG WITH GREAT SAGE VISHWAMITRA JUST BEFORE THE EVENING. HE SHOT HIS FIRST ARROW AIMING IT AT KASHIRAJ. THE MOMENT RAM TOOK THE AIM, HANUMAN WARNED KASHIRAJ.

DON'T STOP CHANTING 'RAM... RAM... RAM... RAM' EVEN FOR A MOMENT.

HEY RAM... HARE RAM... RAM... RAM!

THE ARROW SHOT BY RAM RETURNED TO HIS QUIVER AFTER CIRCUMAMBULATING RESPECTFULLY AROUND KASHIRAJ. AND A VOICE EMANATED FROM THE ARROW.

LORD...! WITH HANUMAN AROUND, I CAN'T TAKE THE LIFE OF SOMEONE CHANTING 'RAM... RAM'!

VISHWAMITRA FROWNED IN ANGER, WHEN RAM SHOT THE SECOND ARROW. IT ALSO CAME BACK WITHOUT HITTING THE TARGET, SAYING...

LORD...! YOU YOURSELF HAVE GIVEN YOUR BLESSED WORD TO HANUMAN! THEN WHY ARE YOU OUT TO RUIN OUR REPUTATION OF BEING UNERRING IN OUR AIM?

THERE HANUMAN AGAIN WARNED THE SHUDDERING KASHIRAJ...!

CONTINUE CHANTING 'RAM... RAM'. IF YOU DO IT NON-STOP, BELIEVE ME, MY LORD'S THIRD ARROW WOULD ALSO BE AS UNSUCCESSFUL AS THE LAST TWO HAVE BEEN

KASHIRAJ BEGAN CHANTING 'RAM... RAM' WITH RE-DOUBLED FREQUENCY

WHEN LORD RAM AIMED HIS THIRD ARROW AT KASHIRAJ, SAGE VASHISHTA REACHED THERE AND QUICKLY UNDERSTOOD THE WHOLE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM. HE REACHED NEAR HANUMAN AND ENQUIRED FROM THE BANK OF THE RIVER.

HANUMAN! WHY ARE YOU OBSTRUCTING IN RAM'S REDEEMING HIS PLEDGE? LET HIM REDEEM IT AND LET KASHIRAJ DIE. SLAIN AT RAM'S HAND, KASHIRAJ WOULD ATTAIN NIRVAAN. HE MAY NOT GET ANOTHER SUCH GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE. LET HIS SOUL BE LIBERATED. YOU, BETTER CLEAR THE WAY.

HANUMAN YELLED ALOUD TO ANSWER, WITHOUT LEAVING HIS POSITION

GREAT SAGE! WHATEVER I'M DOING IS ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTION OF LORD RAM. IT... BY HIS ORDER, I STAND HERE GUARDING KASHIRAJ'S LIFE. LORD RAM HAD INSTRUCTED ME TO GUARD LIFE OF ALL HIS DEVOTEE, CHANTING 'RAM... RAM'!

BUT THE QUESTION RELATES TO THE VERY CREDIBILITY OF RAM'S PLEDGE. IF IT REMAINS UNREDEEMED, PEOPLE'D START HAVING DOUBTS ABOUT THE VERACITY OF RAM'S STATEMENT.

BUT SIR! RAM'S BLESSED WORD CAN'T BE BELIED! EITHER HE WITHDRAWS HIS WORD OR I REFUSE TO LEAVE MY POSITION. I CAN'T LEAVE KASHIRAJ... OTHERWISE THE WORLD'D CALL ME A COWARD.

VASHISHTA WAS ALSO PUZZLED. RAM'S PLEDGE AND IT'S REDEMPTION ON ONE SIDE AND HANUMAN'S PROTECTING KASHIRAJ IN THE COVER OF UPHOLDING RAM'S WORD OF HONOUR ON THE OTHER. ULTIMATELY HE WENT TO SAGE VISHWAMITRA

GREAT SAGE! YOU'RE THE CAUSE OF THIS BATTLE BETWEEN THE SERVANT AND THE MASTER. NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND AN AMICABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM

REVERED SAGE! IF KASHIRAJ IS PREPARED TO TENDER HIS UNCONDITIONAL APOLOGY WITH A GUILTESS HEART AND PROMISES NOT TO REPEAT SUCH CONTUMELY AGAINST ANY SEER OR SAGE IN FUTURE, I CAN FORGIVE HIM.

VASHISHTA THEN WENT TO KASHIRAJ AND EXPLAINED HIM THE WHOLE POSITION.

KASHIRAJ CAME OUT OF THE RIVER AND BOW AT SAGE VISHWAMITRA'S FEET TO APOLOGISE FOR YOUR IMPERTINENCE. ALSO TAKE THE PLEDGE THAT YOU'LL NOT REPEAT THIS MISTAKE IN FUTURE. THE SAGE IS PREPARED TO FORGIVE YOU.

A BITTERLY SHAKING KASHIRAJ CAME OUT OF THE RIVER WATERS AND FELL FLAT AT VISHWAMITRA'S FEET. VISHWAMITRA NOT ONLY FORGAVE HIM, BUT ALSO REQUESTED RAM TO DOUSE HIS ANGER

PUT YOUR ARROWS BACK IN THE QUIVER RAM! I'VE FORGIVEN KASHIRAJ.

AS YOU SAY, GURUDEVI! EVEN OTHERWISE KASHIRAJ IS A NOBLE MAN, I AM SURPRISED HOW COULD HE COMMIT SUCH A FOLLY!

KASHIRAJ TOUCHED THE FEET OF VISHWAMITRA, VASHISHTA, LORD RAM AND HANUMAN TO EXPRESS HIS RESPECT AND APOLOGISED FOR HIS MISCONDUCT.

THUS HANUMAN COULD HONOUR HIS WORD TO HIS MOTHER AND DIDN'T LET THE PRESTIGE FOR RAM'S VERIDICIOUSNESS SUFFER IN ANYWAY

BIRBAL AND THE BEST WATER

ONE DAY EMPEROR AKBAR WAS STROLLING WITH BIRBAL ON THE BANK OF RIVER YAMUNA. WHEN THE EMPEROR THOUGHT OF PULLING A FAST ONE ON BIRBAL...



BIRBAL WASN'T EXPECTING THIS TYPE OF QUESTION FROM THE EMPEROR AT ALL. STILL BIRBAL REPLIED...



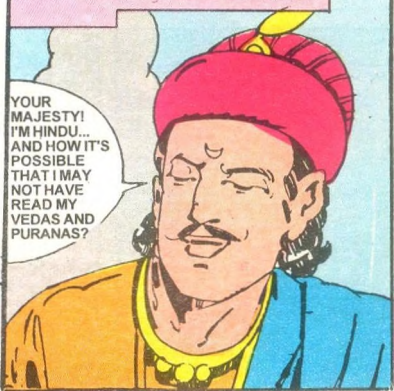
HEARING THIS, AKBAR DEVELOPED FROWN.



BIRBAL'S THIS RESPONSE FURTHER PEEVED AKBAR.



BIRBAL REPLIED NON-CHALLANTLY.



AKBAR FELT AS THOUGH BIRBAL WAS DELIBERATELY OUT TO INSULT HIM! HE SAID IN CHARGED VOICE...



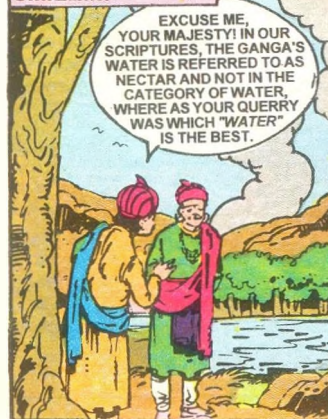
BIRBAL BURST OUT LAUGHING AND SAID CASUALLY...



NOW AKBAR FELT AS THOUGH BIRBAL'S REMARKS WERE GROWING MORE PIERCING AND INTOLERABLE. HE SAID ANGRILY...



BIRBAL REPLIED WITH A SMILE...

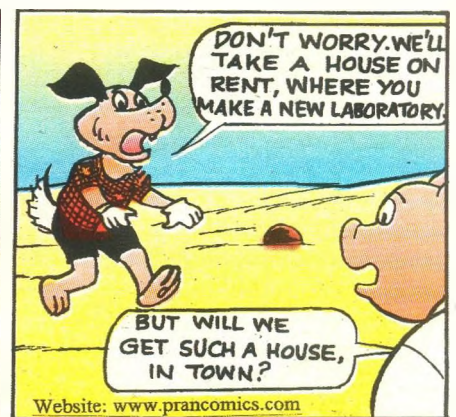
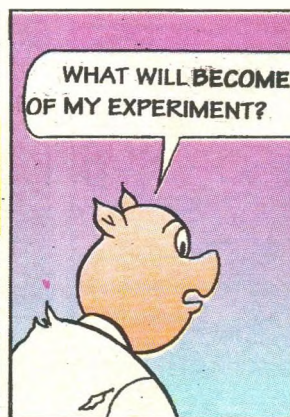
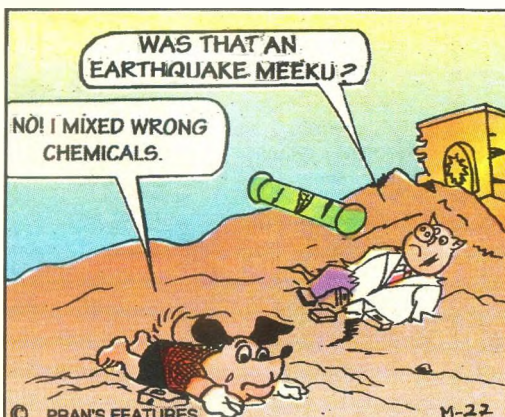
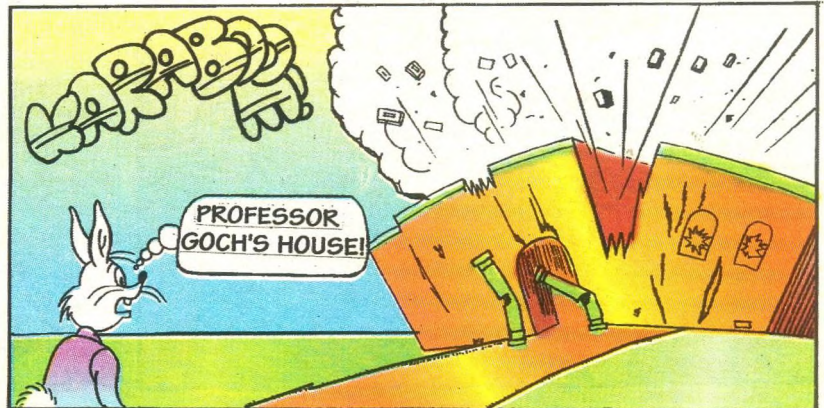
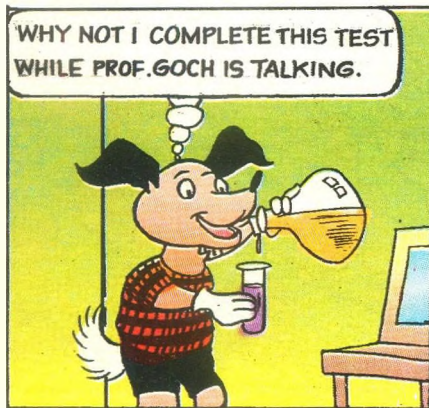
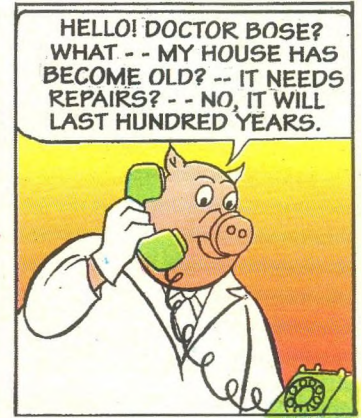
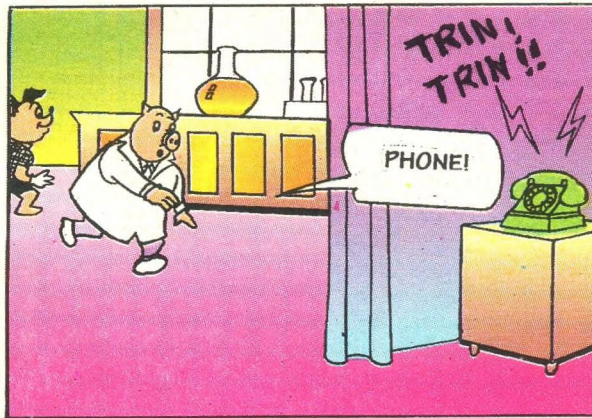
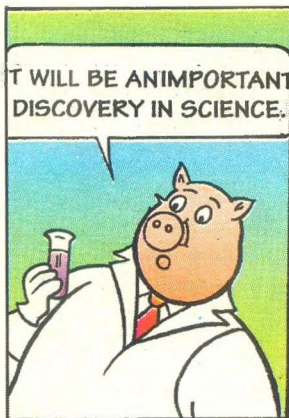


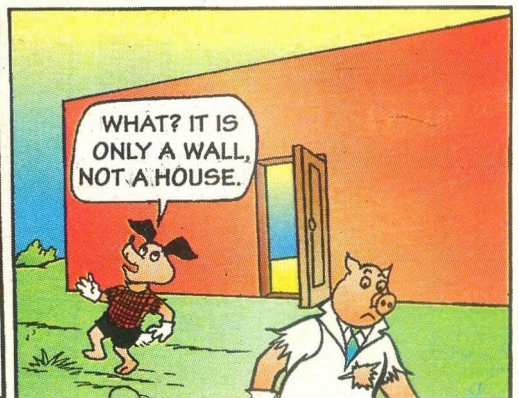
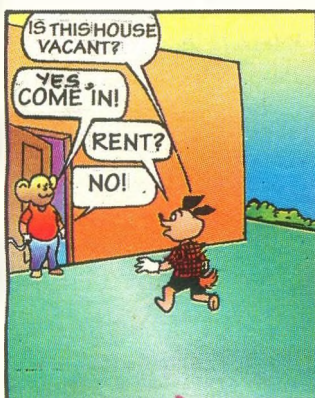
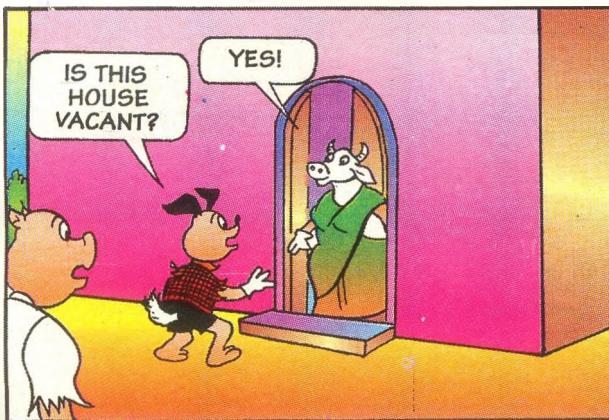
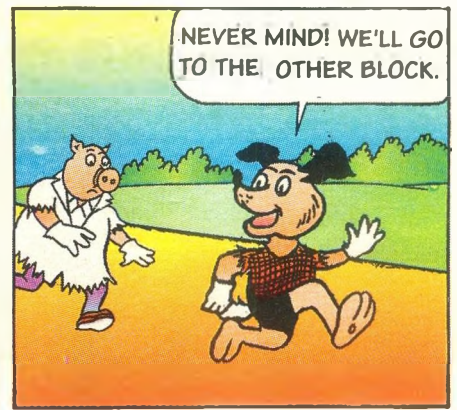
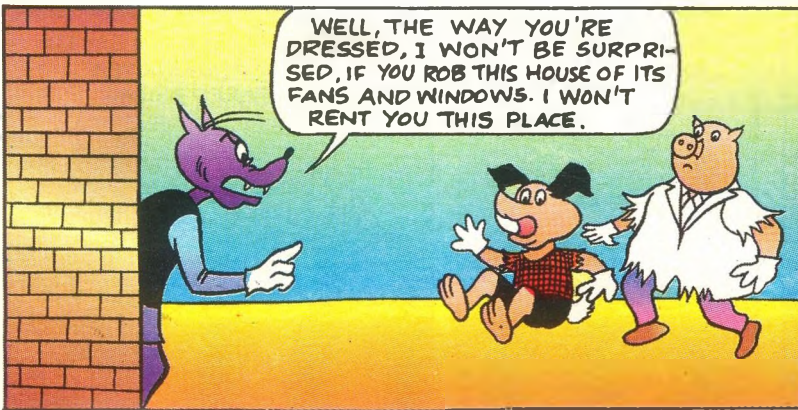
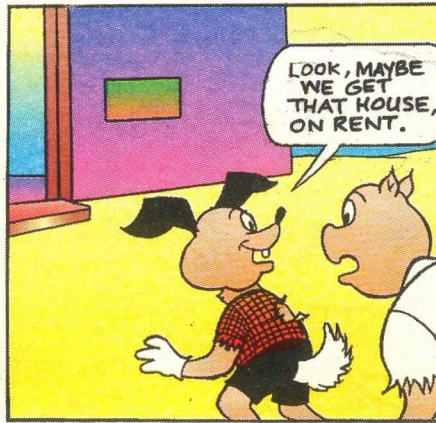
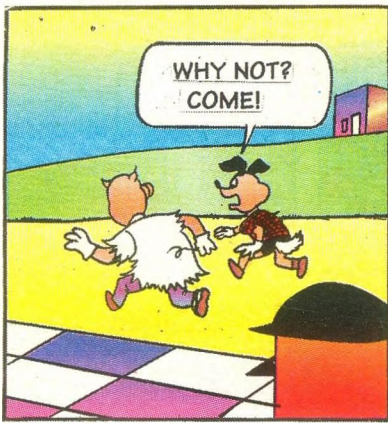
BIRBAL'S EXPLANATION PLACATED AKBAR'S FRAYED TEMPER AND HE BURST OUT LAUGHING.

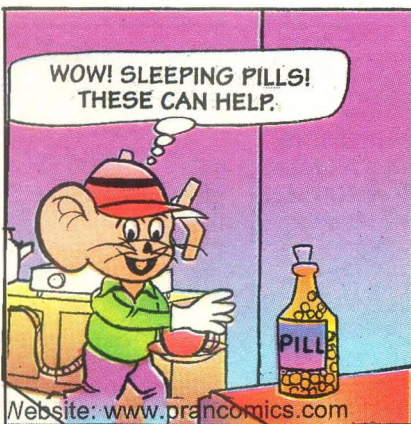
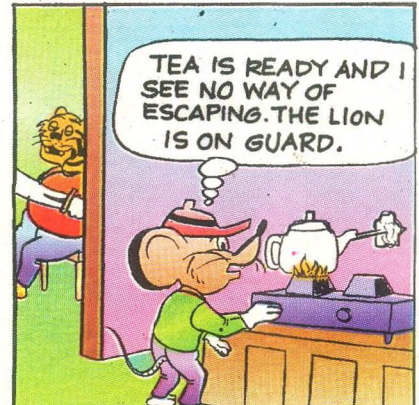
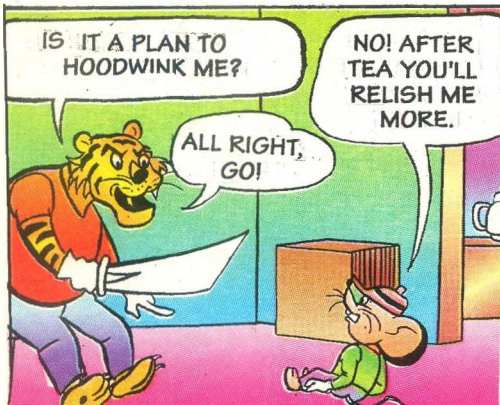
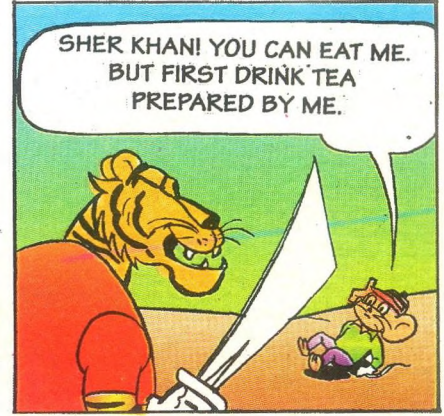
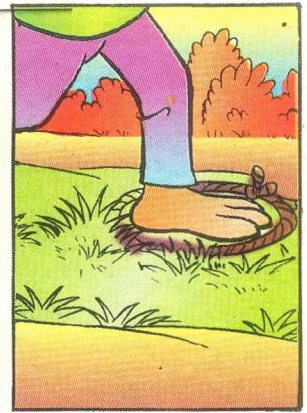
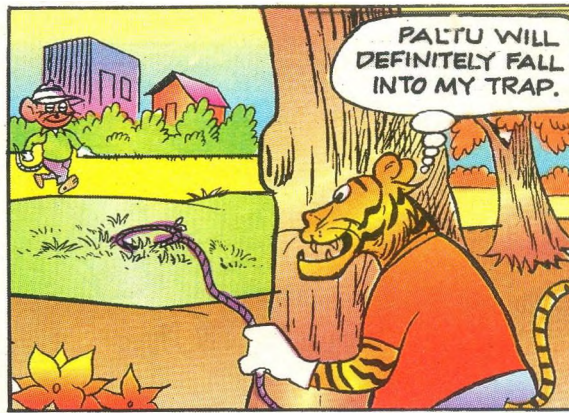
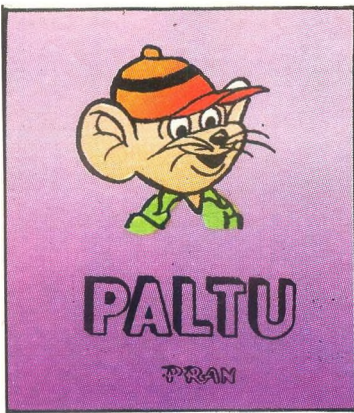


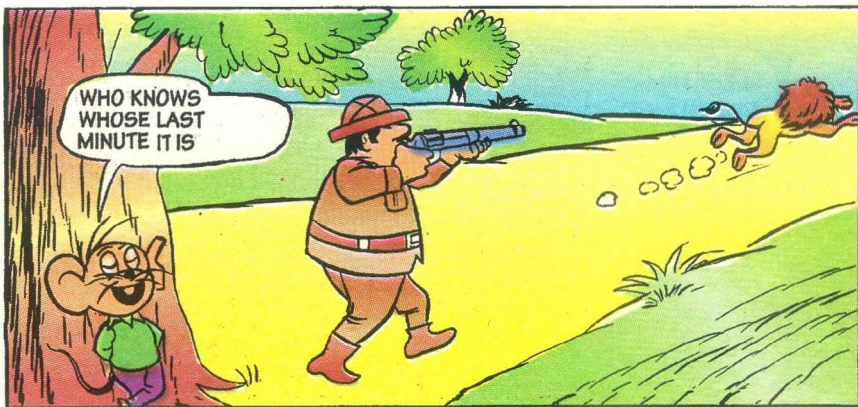
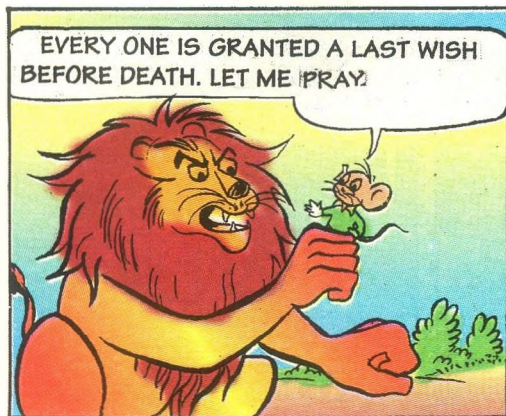
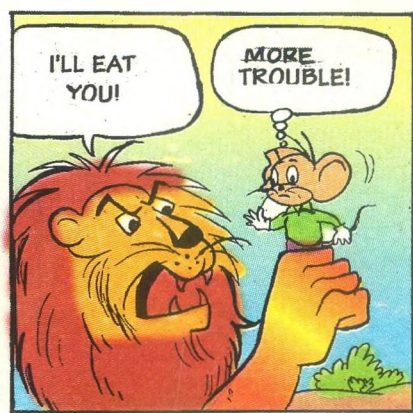
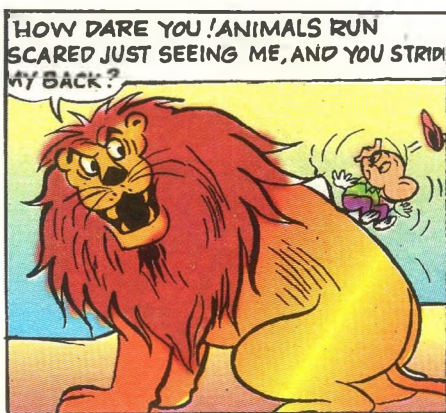
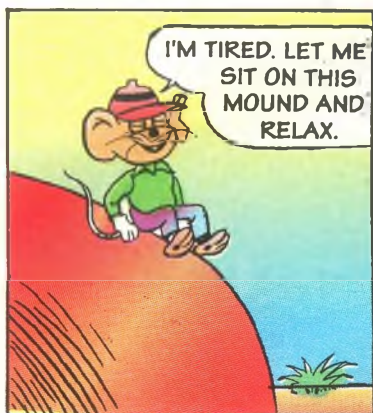
BIRBAL BOWED HIS HEAD IN REVERENCE. AKBAR AGAIN SAID...

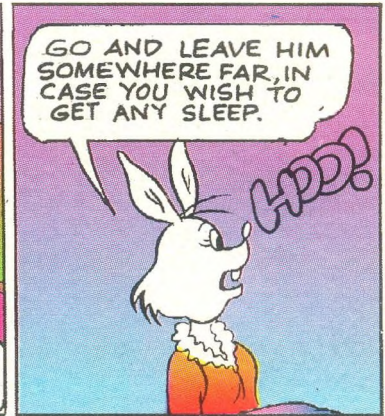


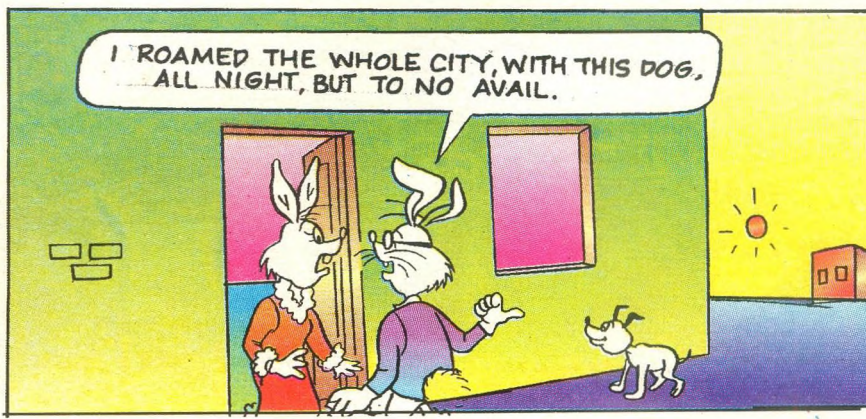
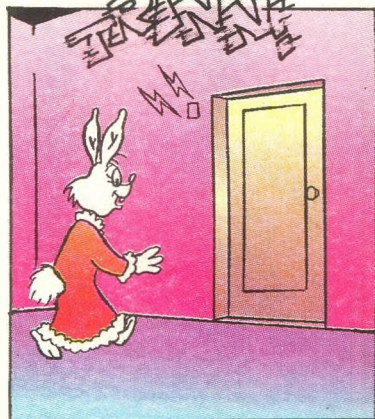
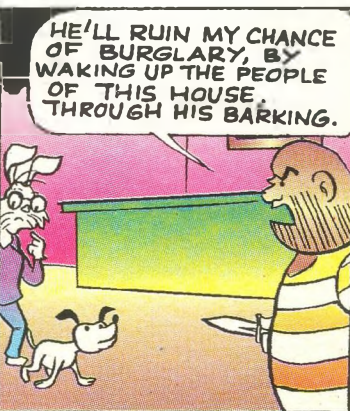
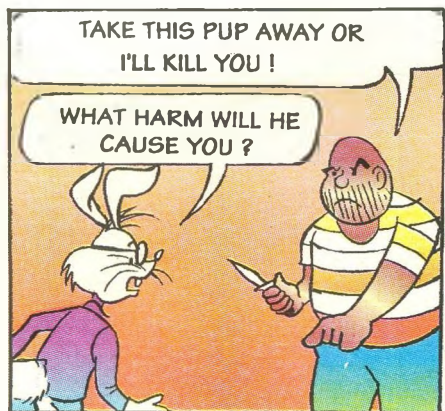
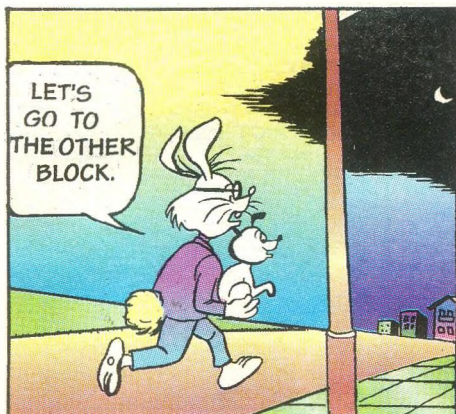
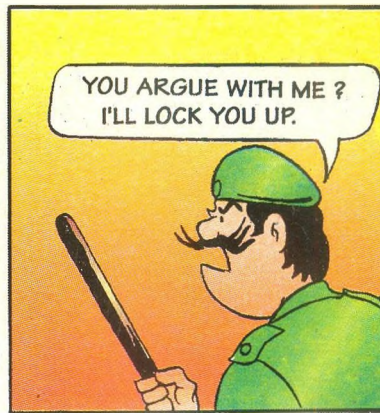
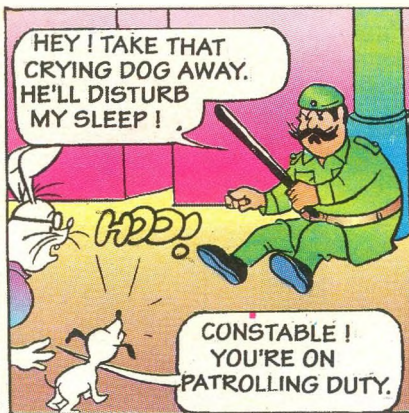
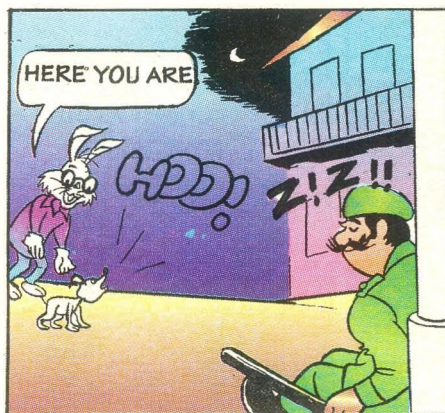


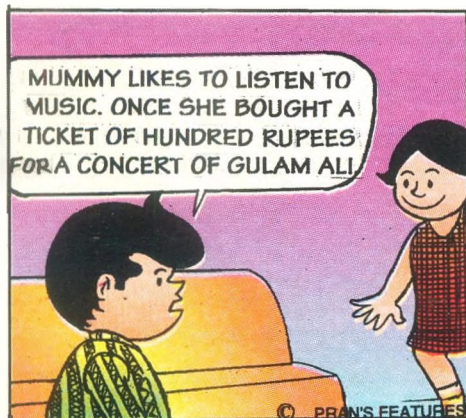
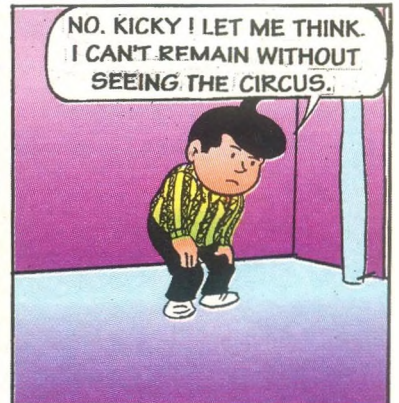
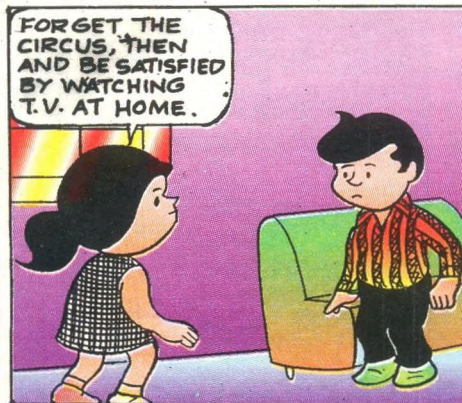
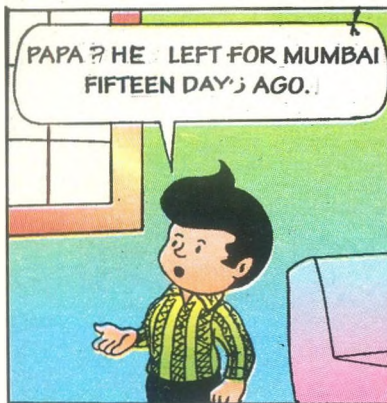
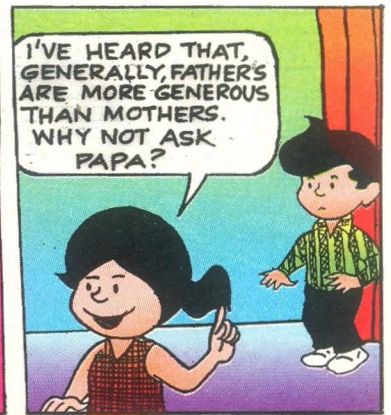
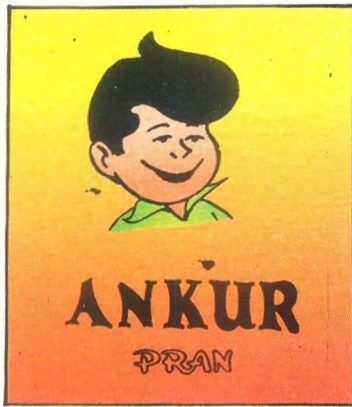


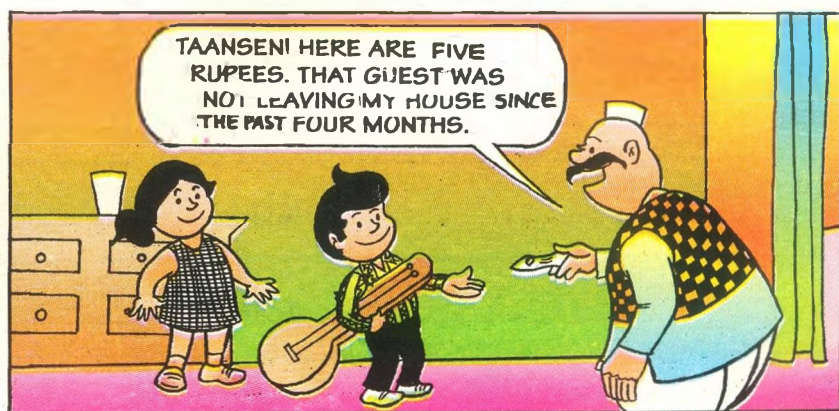
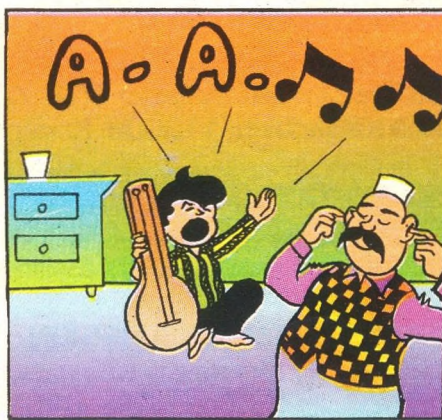
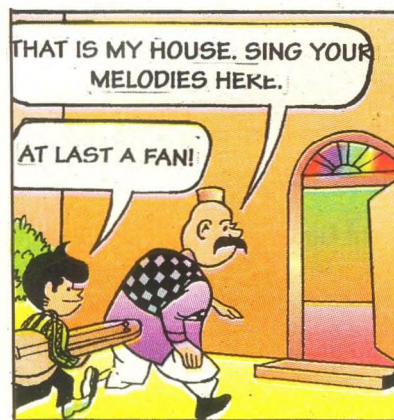
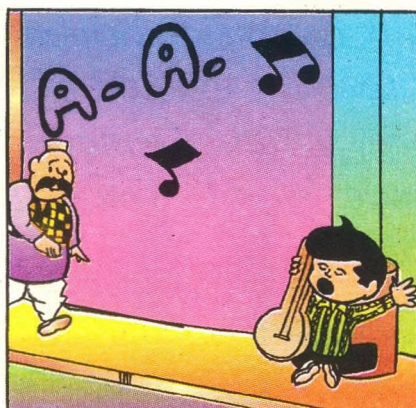
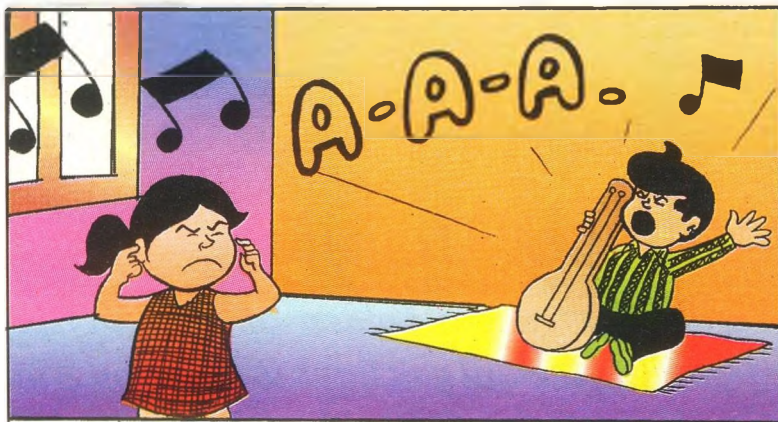


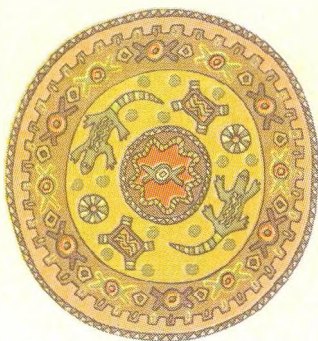












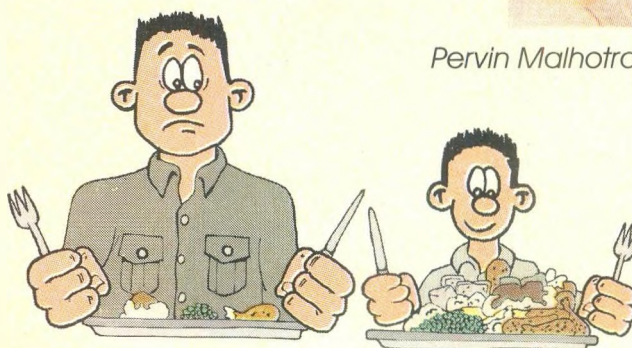
Career Line



Pervin Malhotra

I am interested in doing a course in Textile Designing. Could you please suggest some recognised courses and also tell me about the job prospects in this field.

Nandini Naidu, Visakhapatnam



Dealing primarily with fabric, textile designing covers a wide range of disciplines such as printing, dyeing, embroidery and design development. It includes designing fabrics of all kinds such as clothes, curtains, bed linen, towels; carpets and even lace. Designing is even done for wallpaper, printed plastic sheeting and floor covering. Knowledge of colour combinations, textures, weaves, knits, dyes and prints helps the designer at his job.

You can opt for the following institutes for a course in Textile Design:

★ National Institute of Design (NID), Paldi, Ahmedabad 380 007.

Course: Diploma in Textile & Apparel Design.

Duration: 4 years. Eligibility: Class XII, Upper Age Limit: 22 years

Selection Procedure: Entrance test.

★ National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) (an autonomous body under Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India), Hauz Khas, New Delhi- 110 016.

Course: Postgraduate Diploma in Textile Design & Development.

Duration: 2 years.

★ Pearl Academy of Fashion, C-56/2, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi-100 020. Course: Undergraduate course in Computer Aided Design (Apparel).

Duration: 1-year.

★ YWCA of Delhi, Women's Training Institute, Bangla Sahib Lane, New Delhi-110001. Eligibility: 10+. Duration: 2 years.

. Apeejay Institute of Design, 54 Tughlakabad Institutional Area, Mehrauli-Badarpur 5 Road, Near Batra Hospital, New Delhi 1100-2. Course: Advance Diploma in Textile Design. Duration: 4 years. Eligibility: 10+2.

★ AVI School of Fashion & Shoe Technology, S.C.O. 493-94, 2nd Floor, Sector 35-C;

Chandigarh 160022. Eligibility: 10+2. Duration: 2 years.

★ Sophia B.k. somani Polytechnic, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai 400025. course: ~ Textile Manufacture. Duration: 2 years.

I wish to admit my son in Rashtirya Indian Military College, Dehradun. Could you please tell me about the admission procedure. Do student get direct entry into the armed forces?

Anil Sawhney, Ferozepur

Rashtirya Indian Military College (RIMC), Dehradun, conducts an entrance exam at various centre in the country. Only boys between 11-1/2 --13 year of are eligible to apply for admission. They should either be studying in or passed class VII from a recognised school.

Typically, the written part of the exam consists of three papers: English, Mathematics and General knowledge. Mathematics paper may be answered either in Hindi/English and General Knowledge paper in Hindi/English/any regional language. Beside the written test, the intelligence and personality of the candidates is also tested in an interview. The application forms are available with the State Governments/Union Territories Administration.

Besides the regular academic subjects, emphasis is laid on the overall fitness and development of mind and body to gear student for taking the NDA exams in the final year.

No admission to the armed force is guaranteed. But will depend on how your son scores in the subsequent SSB tests.



Pervin Malhotra
Director, CARING (Career Information & Guidance)

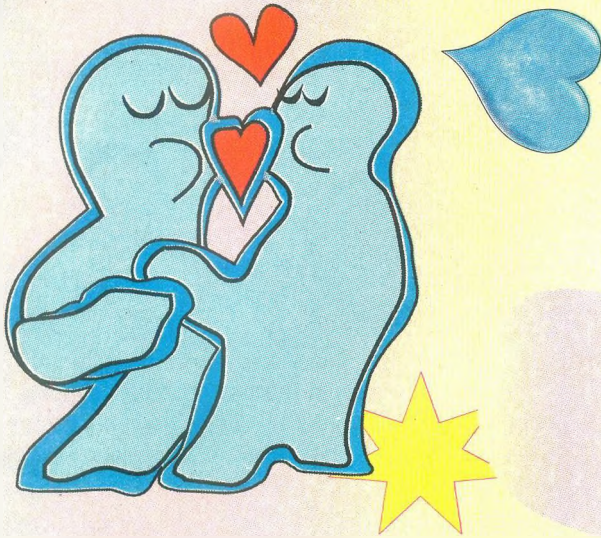
Friends,

This column is specially designed to help you in solving your problems about your career. Without any hesitation write to us about your problems. Please send a self addressed duly stamped envelope too.

-Editor



HEART TO HEART



Dear Ravi,

Let me be friend who listens when you need to be heard, who shares my deepest heart, when you need to know, you are not alone in your struggles.
Love,

Your Zindagi

Dear Sweetie,

A darling dreamy_eyed girl! Never ever think that you don't bring happiness to the people around you. Like the sun is the eternal source of energy for the entire universe, you radiate joy, happiness, cheer and hope to all your friends and family. You are the embodiment of essence of life. Lots of love to my dearest Sweetie.

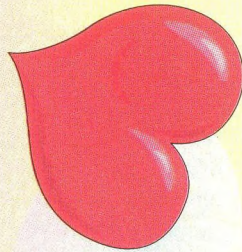
From Dodoeyes

Dearest and Sweetest Lata.

You are really a special in my life. I love you very much and don't want to loose you at any cost. You have got my heart and it will be forever yours. I get speechless whenever I am in front of you, that is why I am expressing my love for you like this.

Tonnes of Love,

Sachin Rane



Dearest Silver Oak,

There is still a lot of craze for new friendships, but who respects you the most? Take care of yourself.

From Cool Guy

Dear Missing Pooja,

Some love lasts a lifetime, true love lasts forever. I love you forever, and ever and ever...

From Unfortunate Anwar

Dear Loving Lovely,

Hey darling of my heart! Listen to my heartthrobs in this new era of our friendship.

From Gladfly

Dear Mrignayini,

I want to reach out to someone so dear as you, who is far away from me. Yet you seem so near to me, someone who perhaps doesn't know the facts, that it is hard for me to keep my facts, that it is hard for me to know, to keep my heart intact.

From Your Loving Moor

Dearest Aman,

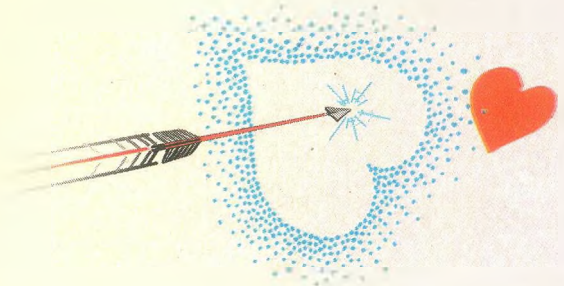
I am missing all the moments we shared. I am longing for those moments to be together again, once again. I love you darling.

From Jaan

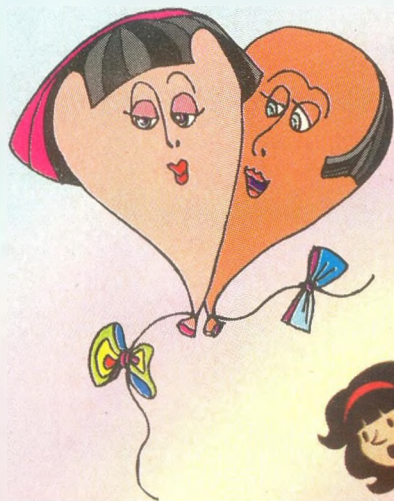
Dearest Sakshi,

You are a perfect match. May God shower his blessings on you, so that all the dreams come true. Anywhere, I'll pray for you. Don't ever forget me and leave me alone.

Only Yours Em Bee



FACE TO FACE



Dear Editor,
From the very beginning I've been a regular reader of Comic World. I love all the comic characters like Chacha Chaudhary, Billu, Pinki, Archie, Tom & Jerry, Batman, Heman, Tenalirama, etc. Please include Superman, Blondie in the forthcoming issues.

Francis D'Costa,
Mumbai

Dear Editor,
Thanks for Comic World's all previous Special Issues. We're really expecting more and more. Kindly give information about forthcoming specials. I really love reading Ruskin Bond. Please give more space for his articles.

Supriya Vashu,
Lucknow



Dear Sir,
I'm a regular reader of Comic World. It's my favourite magazine. So, it's a matter of immense joy for me to watch it growing into a real cool teenage mag. Please give some more fact-filled articles of science and technology.

Suresh Prabhu,
Bangalore



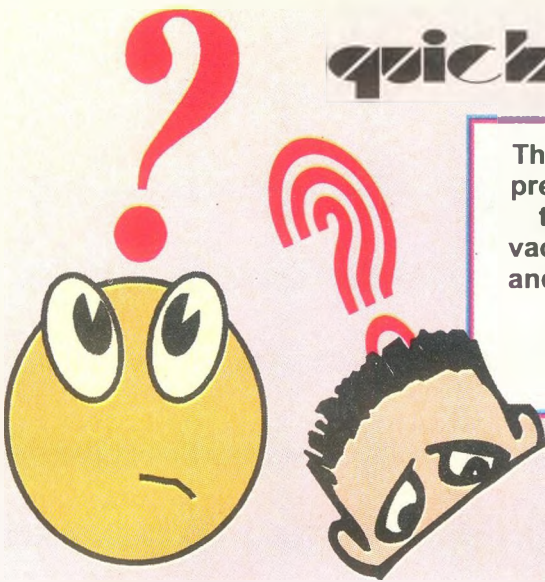
Dear Sir,
A lot of congratulations for bringing out Fun Special Issue of Comic World. All the comics were also superb as always. Keep it up.

J. Sunderrajan,
Andhra Pradesh

Dear Editor,
I just received Comic World's Valentine Special Issue. I can't tell you how thrilled I become after getting so much knowledge about Valentine Day. It was a nice gift coming from your side. Thank you very much.

Ruchita Jain,
Kanpur

quick recap quiz-18



This Quick Recap Quiz-18 is based on Comic World's previous issues. Answer the following questions with the help of these issues. Write the answers in the vacant place given with each question. Write in a neat and clean handwriting. This is a golden chance to win Rs,10,000/-

QUICK RECAP QUIZ-18
257, Dariba Kalan, Delhi-110006

★ In 1986, how much prize money was offered in US Golf Circuit?

★

★ When did unleaded petrol begin selling?

★

★ Which was the first entirely successful helicopter of the world?

★

★ Who disguised as a donkey?

★

★ Who's ball broke the street light?

★

★ What was the name of Tenali's mother?

★

★ What was the popular mode of communication in Cordoba, Spain, in A.D 1000?

★

★ Who produced Hollywood film "End of Days"?

★

★ What's the age of Deepak Mehta?

★

★ What's the price of Open Corsa?

★

★ By what name is the Australian wild dog known?

★

★ Who invented 'zig-zag' way of walking?

★

★ What was the weight of Motala the elephant?

★

★ Where will you find the oldest Jewish Synagogue in India?

★

★ Who grew the largest mushroom of the world?

★

★ Which company launched the British Tan Collection?

★

★ What was the name of Sampati the vulture's brother?

★

★ What is the real name of Batwoman?

★

★ What is the relation between Batwoman and Batgirl?

★



Name :

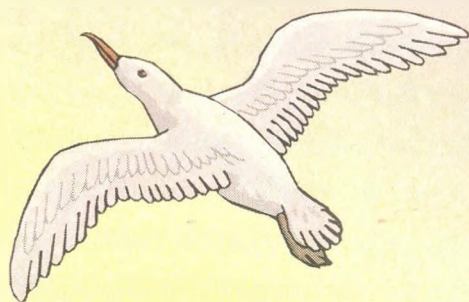
Age: Sex:

Address:

.....



Pen Friend

Iqbal Ansari,
Age - 18
H: Cricket, Reading COMIC
WORLD, Penfriendship
Add: c/o Super Tea Stall,
Main Bazar, Sitamarhi, Bihar.

Nikita Verma,
Age - 15
H: Bird watching, Cycling,
Pen pals
Add: Suman Glass Works,
287-B, New Krishna Colony,
Firozabad, U.P.

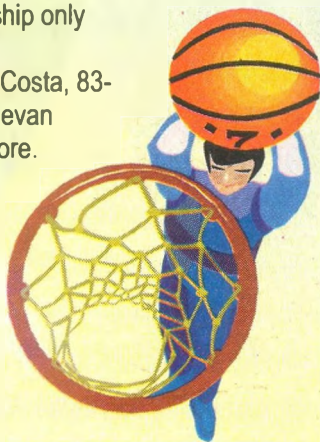


Asim Chatterjee,
Age - 16
H: Stamp Collection, English
Movies, Penfriendship
Add: 24 C. S. Dasgupta
Lane, Baratalla, South-24
Pargana, West Bengal.



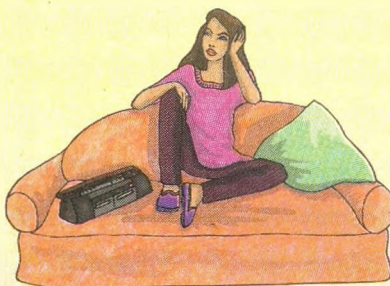
Surabhi Joshi,
Age - 18
H: Poetry, Cooking,
Penfriendship
Add: c/o S.K. Joshi,
Quarter No. 131, BHEL
Colony, Haridwar, U.P.

Maria D'Costa,
Age - 16
H: Computer Games,
Basketball, Friendship only
with Girls
Add: c/o Francis D'Costa, 83-
C, Second floor, Jeevan
Apartment, Bangalore.



Amit Sharma,
Age - 17 H: Reading Comics,
Cricket, Tennis
Add: c/o Someshwar Sharma,
278-B Sriram Nagar,
Shahadra, Delhi-110 032.

Chhaya Mullick,
Age - 18 H: Painting, Music,
Penfriendship
Add: c/o G.K. Mullick, 76-B, Mirza
Ghalib Street, Calcutta-700 016.



PENFRIENDS COMIC WORLD

257, Dariba Kalan
Delhi-110006

I want to make Pen Friends.
I am sending a recent
photograph of myself.

Name
Age:.....Sex :
Address :
.....



**NEW
IN THE
MARKET**

Kwality Wall's is the ice cream housebrand of Hindustan Lever Limited which currently enjoys more than half of the Indian ice-cream market share. Cornetto is the gold standard of Indian ice creams and stands for best quality ice cream in India. Indianizing the Cornetto offering through the launch of Ole marks a significant initiative in showcasing truly Indian indulgent tastes through Cornetto ice cream.

Cornetto's Ole



Star Wars

The premier shoe company Woodland has just related the adventure of Star Wars with its new and attractive shoe range in an interesting manner. These jogger shoes are available in blue, brown and black colours at all leading showrooms all over India.

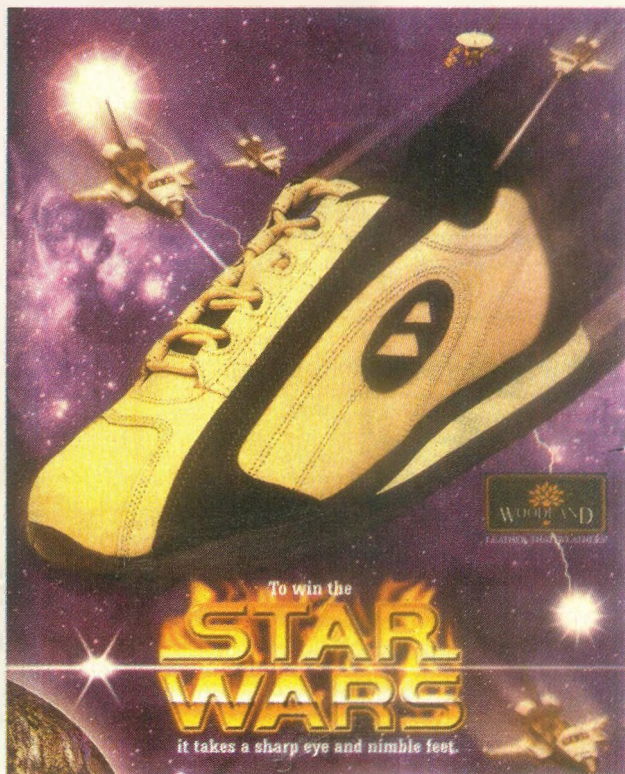
Ranger Swing

Hero Cycles has launched its new hi-performance cycle Ranger Swing. It's a tough bike that's got a hi-tensile steel body. This bike also features swing-arm suspension, which makes boulders seem like pebbles. It also has a state-of-the-art Shimano-grip, shift gears, 18-speed transmission system from Simano, Japan.

New Tata Tetley



Tata Tetley is the new launch of Tata, which is a pioneer brand in the tea bag industry. Using only 100 per cent Assam tea, Tata Tetley ensures a taste you will never forget.



FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS

SHELLS & FISH

THE LARGEST OF ALL EXISTING BIVALVE SHELLS BELONGS TO THE MARINE GIANT CLAM (*TRIDACNA GIGAS*), FOUND ON THE INDO-PACIFIC CORAL REEFS. AN OUTSIZED SPECIMEN MEASURING 45.2 in (115 cm) IN LENGTH AND WEIGHING 734 lb (333 kg) WAS FOUND OFF ISHIGAKI ISLAND, OKINAWA, JAPAN IN 1956.



THE SPINY STARFISH (*MARTHASTERIAS GLACIALIS*) IS THE LARGEST TO BE FOUND IN BRITISH WATERS. IN JAN 1979 JONATHAN MACNEIL FROM THE ISLE OF BARRA, WESTERN ISLES FOUND A SPECIMEN ON THE BEACH WHICH ORIGINALLY SPANNED 30 in (76.2 cm).



ON 11 FEB 1977 AN AMERICAN LOBSTER (*HOMARUS AMERICANUS*) WEIGHING A RECORD 44 lb 6 oz (20.19 kg) AND MEASURING 3 ft 6 in (1.06 m) LONG WAS CAUGHT OFF NOVA SCOTIA AND LATER SERVED IN A NEW YORK RESTAURANT.



FINANCE

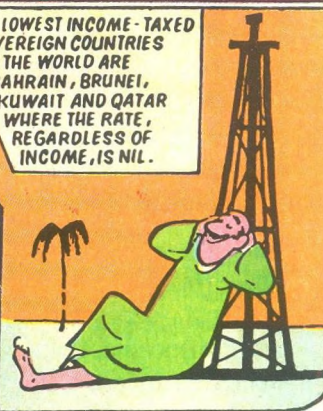
THE LONGEST SERVING CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER WAS THE RE. HON. SIR ROBERT WALPOLE KG (LATER 1ST EARL OF ORFORD) (1676-1745). HE HELD OFFICE FOR A TOTAL OF 22 YEARS 5 MONTHS FROM 12 OCT 1715 TO 15 APRIL 1717 AND 3rd APRIL 1721 TO 12 FEB 1742.



THE LONGEST BUDGET SPEECH LASTED 4 hr 51 min AND WAS DELIVERED BY THE RE. HON. DAVID (LATER EARL) LLOYD GEORGE PC OM (1869-1945) ON 29 APRIL 1909.



THE LOWEST INCOME-TAXED SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD ARE BAHRAIN, BRUNEI, KUWAIT AND QATAR WHERE THE RATE, REGARDLESS OF INCOME, IS NIL.



SLEEPING & SNORING

NOT ONLY IS THE THREE-TOED SLOTH (*BRADYPUS TRIDACTYLUS*) THE SLOWEST LAND MAMMAL, IT ALSO SPENDS 80 PER CENT OF ITS TIME SLEEPING OR DOZING...



WHILE IT IS CLAIMED THAT DALL'S PORPOISE (*PHOCOENOIDES DALLI*) NEVER SLEEPS AT ALL!



THE HIGHEST SOUND LEVEL RECORDED BY ANY CHRONIC SNORER IS 90 DECIBELS MEASURED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA.

